



Romanov News Новости Романовых

By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky

№122

May 2018



Emperor Nicholas II - Tsar-Martyr
150 years birthday anniversary (1868-2018)

VI International Public Forum "Elizabeth's Heritage Today" was held in Moscow and Kostroma

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Governments of Moscow and of the Kostroma Region, the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society (ESES) held the 6th International Public Forum "Elizabeth's Heritage Today. The Memorial Route of the Imperial Family. Moscow-Kostroma."



The forum was held at the Intercession Church of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow and started with the Divine Liturgy and thanksgiving service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Representatives of museums, public and ecclesiastical organizations, specialists in the field of tourism and pilgrimage from various regions of Russia and abroad, continuing the traditions of Christian enlightenment and charity in various regions of Russia and abroad and bearing the name of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna took part in the Annual Forum.





In connection with the centenary of the murder of the representatives of the Romanov Imperial House, in 1918-1919, the main theme of the Forum was the development and inclusion of regions in the National Tourist Project "The Imperial Route" developed by the Ministry of Culture The Russian Federation and the ESES.

Welcome greetings were given by: Chairman of the Synodal Department for Church Philanthropy and Social Service Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuevsky; Archpriest Dmitry Roshchin, Head of the Department for Public Relations of the Synodal Department for Relations between the Church and the Society and Mass Media of the Moscow Patriarchate; Mother Superior Elizabeth, Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy; P.E. Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III; Director of the Department of Tourism and Regional Policy of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation Olga S. Yarilova; Deputy Mayor of Moscow on regional security and information policy A.N. Gorbenko; and Chairman of ESES A.V. Gromova.

Bishop Panteleimon said - *"I am very glad that the opening of the VI International Scientific and Public Forum "the Elizabeth's Heritage Today: Memorial Route of the Imperial Family" takes place in the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, where the feat of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, who was the founder of the Abode, began.*

And today the Convent of Mercy testifies to the legacy of the Holy Martyr - it's not just about the restored walls, but about restoring and multiplying the works of love and mercy, which the Grand Duchess commanded us.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the Passover, and I am very glad that today we are here to remind each other of Easter joy and to tell everyone about the feat of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth



Feodorovna, to show the world her bright image and to testify that we remember her works, the feat and intercession, which help us to this day. Christ is Risen!"



Olga Yarilova said - *"For the Ministry of Culture of Russia "the Imperial Route" is a priority federal project. It is aimed at reviving the historical, cultural and spiritual foundations of Russia, its achievements during the reign of the Romanov dynasty. This is a new phenomenon in Russian tourism, which includes the "Imperial Route" as a "national treasure", which should become known and accessible to both Russian and foreign tourists".*

She spoke about a set of activities aimed at ensuring that the "Imperial Route" was given the status of a state institution, similar to the UNESCO World Heritage List, as well as events to promote the national tourism project in Russia and abroad. Olga Yarilova said that the criteria for including cities and display objects in the route have already been developed. "For the regions to be part of the" Imperial Route "is not only a great honour, but also an indicator of the high level of tourism development".

According to her, the first visitors of the "Imperial Route" will be

Russian students: "We are doing this within the framework of the national program of children's tourism" My Russia ". From the end of May, the four-day tour will begin with a visit to Tyumen, Tobolsk and Yekaterinburg," she noted.

Paul E. Kulikovskiy said - *"I cordially greet the organizers and participants of this 6th conference "Elizabeth's Heritage today". This time we are in the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy - an oasis in the middle of busy Moscow, created by our heroine and properly the most famous heritage of hers.*

We are in a very special year with many important anniversaries. The 200 years birthday anniversary of Emperor Alexander II, the Tsar-Liberator, is being celebrated to the end of this year.

In a few days it is the 150 years birthday anniversary of Emperor Nicholas II, the Tsar-Martyr, and many commemorative events are planned all over the country.

I June, it will be 100 years since the murder of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in Perm.

But the most anticipated anniversary this year will be in July, the 100 years since the murder of Emperor Nicholas II, his family, and servants in Yekaterinburg, and the murder of Grand Duchess Elizabeth and 7 others in Alapaevsk.

We cannot live in the past, we have to look forward and then comes the questions, what to do?

My starting point is: I will forgive - but I will never forget!

I think it makes no sense to talk about guilt today. No one from those days are alive today. And can you blame the descendants of those who committed the

crimes 100 years ago? And what to achieve from making someone guilty 100 years later - for historical justice some say. Then I ask, is it really needed in order to establish historical justice?

As I see it, the most important in historical justice lies not in condemning the guilty, but in honoring the victims. This is what we must do!

"As I see it, the most important in historical justice lies not in condemning the guilty, but in honoring the victims. This is what we must do!" - Paul E. Kulikovskiy

When it comes to historical justice, the government have an obligation to investigate and establish the facts so that the truth will be known and be made part of the nation's history. There must be both knowledge and acknowledgment: the events need to be officially recognized and publicly revealed. The "Truth-telling" should be a respond to the demand of justice for the victims and facilitate national reconciliation.

In 1998, at the funeral in Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin understood this and said - " We must say the truth: The Yekaterinburg massacre has become

one of the most shameful episodes in our history. By burying the remains of innocent victims, we want to atone for the sins of our ancestors. Those who committed this crime are as guilty as are those who approved of it for decades. We are all guilty."

Yeltsin's words are the closest we have come to an official recognition publicly stated - to an acknowledgment. Maybe this year it will be made part of the nation's history.



So what else to do? I will today mention two topics, which are on my mind in these days. The first is to expand a bit on the "Truth telling" part, which have many aspects that needs to be dealt with. The second is "Justice for the victims", which I think needs to be discussed.

"Truth telling" is about investigate and establish the facts. It is clear that historical research must continue. One would imagine, that 100 years after the events and after at least 20 years of open archives, everything was revealed and the facts available for all. But it is not so.

We still do not have the full picture of what happen 100 years ago. There are still too many and some quite big white spots in our historical memory. I urge all historians to continue their work and publish as much as possible of relevant important documents.

A second issue on this topic is "falsifications". Some historians, politicians and outspoken citizens are not treating in an honest way, the information they have. Some are deliberately neglecting information and put a spin on the information they present - or are simply inventing information to support their views. Others continue with the old lies, slander, propaganda and myths. How to stop them - I ask? Making it worse are the media. They are more than happy to publish whatever silly story being presented, regardless of it being an obvious lie. I am sure that some of them does it out of a political motives. Falsifications and honest reporting is a big problem in Russia. Do we need a campaign to prevent these kind of lies?

I can add, that for me and my family it is very hurtful to again and again read the same old lies, slander, propaganda and myths. On top of this we often have to hear about new imposters. How many times do we have to say it, Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra had only 5 children - Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexei, and they in turn had no children.

And NO, none of them survived the massacre in the basement in Ipatiev House, in the night of 16/17 July 1918. All those who claims to be their children, grandchildren or descendants are imposters! I think it is time for serious historians and other respected members of our society to take a stand, be active, to condemn these kind of falsifications and put shame on those who bring these kind of fake news.

The more positive side of "Truth telling" includes enlightenment - the spreading of knowledge - about the Imperial Family, and what happened to them. It is here the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society have devoted much of its efforts and I am happy to say with very positive results.

It is not only important what is being said, but also the way it is being said and that more and more people are listening. The success factor is how many are responding to it - in short the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society is successful.

The project "the Imperial Route" is a splendid example on how to enlighten many people in many places. It is one thing to read about history at home, but to be in the historical location where it actually happened is a much stronger experience. The Imperial Route takes you there, to all the important places associated with the Imperial Family.

In the end of April was opened the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II in the Governor's House in Tobolsk. It is in fact the last house in which were living the family of Nicholas II, that is still in existence today! Add to this, that the Bolsheviks tried as best as they could to erase the memory of Emperor Nicholas II, then it is a miracle that the house is preserved.

In July will open a museum in the Field School in Alapaevsk. Where was living Grand Duchess Elizabeth and other members of the Imperial Family, before they were murdered at a mine outside the city. Again the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society is involved.

The significance of these museums, I can best express in the following way - when the commemorations in 2018 ends, these museums will still be there and their activities will continue.

The enlightenment also take on other forms, as we see in this conference today, in publishing of books, etc, which many of you are also involved in. Thank you for your efforts in this respect.

My second topic "Justice for the victims", I could also call "wounds to be closed" or said less dramatically, several practical issues to be solved. Just like the persons guilty of these crimes all are departed, are also all the direct victims departed. But there are still "open wounds" related to them, carried in the souls of the descendants and relatives of these victims. These indirect victims are suffering due to what happen 100 years ago and how the society today are treating their ancestors.

I would like to remind, that still today, not all of my family members who were merciless killed in the years 1918-1919 have received a Christian burial. Some of them are still lying in unknown or unmarked places.

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was killed in Perm. He is not found.

The Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich, Dimitri Konstantinovich, Nicholas Konstantinovich and George Mikhailovich were shot in the Peter and Paul Fortress, in St. Petersburg. They are not found.

Others have been found but are not put to their eternal place - Passion Bearer Tsarevich Alexei and Passion Bearer Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna are still not united with their family. Of the Alapaevsk Martyrs are several of them buried in a park in Beijing, China - Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich; Prince John Konstantinovich, Prince Konstantin Konstantinovich and Prince Igor Konstantinovich; and Prince Vladimir Paley. Their graves are almost forgotten and are not marked.

The fact that these tragic cases are not closed is not only painful for me and my family, but it seems also for many people in our Russian world.

There are constant efforts to find our missing relatives. Searches are going on for finding Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in Perm. And recently was started a project in Yekaterinburg to find and bring back to Russia the missing Alapaevsk Martyrs, now buried in China.

While this is going on, I and my family are waiting for the church commission working on the questions of the remains found in Yekaterinburg to come to a completion. For me it is important that the Church



recognize the remains as holy relics and we then can reunite the relics of Alexei and Maria with the relics of their family in the Peter and Paul Cathedral, and with the participation of the church.

It is important to honour the memory of the victims, and much is being done, particular by the church, and organizations like the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society. One of the popular ways to honour the victims, and here I think mainly about the Passion-Bearers, is to make a monument - a tribute to them. Some of them are good, but there are too many that are on the border of disrespect, have incorrect historical details, are lacking in spiritual idea, and are artistic of low quality. Unfortunately, many of these seems to go up in areas belonging to monasteries or churches. The latest example is the sculptural ensemble "The Imperial Family" installed in Biysk, in Altai region, which is to be officially open in July this year. I will go as far as to call it a disgrace. So many bureaucratic structures, but no "quality control" when needed.

Dear friends, as you can understand there are still much to do.

A low bow to Anna Vitalevna Gromova and the entire staff in Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society. We pray for your continued success!

And finally, let us remember those innocent victims who have fallen to hatred and violence. May they rest in peace. Eternal memory!"

The reports presented at the 6th International Public Forum "Elizabeth's Heritage Today. The Memorial Route of the Imperial Family. Moscow-Kostroma" included:

- Olga S. Yarilova, Director of the Department for Regional Development and Tourism of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, talking about "The Imperial Route" - at international tourist exhibitions and cultural events in Russia".

- Marina D. Kresova, vice-president of the Association of guides (interpreters), tour guides and tour managers - "Development of legislation in the field of regulation of excursion activities in the territory of the Russian Federation".

- Vladislava V. Dronova, Director of "Tobolsk Historical and Architectural Museum Reserve", PhD - "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" on the map of the Imperial Route".

- Natalia M. Proshina, Director of the Multimedia Historical Park "Russia is My History" in the Sverdlovsk Region, PhD - "Historical multimedia park" Russia is my history "in the" Imperial Route ".

- Natalia A. Platonova, Vice-Rector of the Russian State University of Tourism and Service, Doctor of Economics, Professor - "National tourist project "Imperial Route": Quality Standards."

- Hegumen Evmeniy (Lagutin), rector of the Nikolo-Berlyukovskaya Monastery, Moscow region - "Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Nikolo-Berlyukovskaya Monastery."

- Nun Sophia (Koshelenko), the head of the Bishop's courtyard of the cross church of St. Mitrophan of Voronezh in the city of Perm - "Plans of the Perm diocese on the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family".

- Vladimir M. Khrustalev, chief specialist of GARF, PhD. - "Book Releases for the" Imperial Route."



Vladislava V. Dronova talking about the "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" in Tobolsk.

Lyudmila A. Lykova, Chief Specialist of the RGASPI, Doctor of Science - "Diaries of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna: from Tobolsk to Yekaterinburg."

- Galina K. Schutskaya, Director of the Romanovs Boyars House - talked about the "Museum Romanovs Boyars House in Moscow and its place in the Imperial Route".
- Yuri A. Minulin, General Director of Radonezh Pilgrimage Service, member of the Council for the Systematization of the Cultural and Educational National Tourist Project "Imperial Route" - "Tasks and prospects for the development of the" Imperial Route "in Moscow".
- Marina G. Stutz, guide, journalist - "The Imperial Route in Germany and Europe". (Frankfurt am Main).

The afternoon ended with a tour of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, in particular the Memorial Museum with the rooms of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.



Galina K. Schutskaya talking about the Museum Romanovs Boyars House, pointing out Emperor Alexander II at the consecration of the Museum.

In the evening a concert-requiem concert dedicated to the memory of the Imperial Family in the Column Hall of the House of Unions in Moscow. (See the following article).

In Kostroma

On May 16, the forum continued its work in the Museum of History of the Kostroma Region, where the plenary session and the round table "The Imperial Route in the Regions of Russia" took place.



There the opening words came from the Governor of the Kostroma Region, S.K. Sitnikov; Metropolitan of Kostroma and Nerekht Ferapont; Head of the Department for Public Relations of the Synodal Department for the Relations of the Church with Society and Media, Archpriest Dmitry Roshchin; Chairman of ESES A.V. Gromova; Director of the Publishing House Tonchu Doctor of Economy E.A. Tonchu, and Lyubov S. Akelina, Chairman of the Board of the Regional Fund named after Grand Duchess Evdokia.

That the forum is held on the Kostroma land - the cradle of the House of Romanovs - is not by chance. In 1613, at the walls of the Ipatiev Monastery after the popular election at the Zemsky Sobor, the young Mikhail Fedorovich, the founder of the Romanov dynasty, was named the Tsar of the Russian State. With the beginning of his accession to the throne, the Time of Troubles ended, and Russia

became a Great Power. All Russian Princes, representatives of the Royal Family, were honoured for the duty to visit Kostroma and to bow to its shrines.

Kostroma tour operators offer guests such sightseeing programs as "For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland", "Kostroma is the cradle of the House of Romanovs," "Following the Traces of Ivan Susanin" and others.

Sergey Sitnikov, the governor of the Kostroma region, stressed that the inclusion of Kostroma in the national tourist route is an important step not only to attract Orthodox pilgrims and develop tourism in the region, but also to preserve the history of the state.

"We very much count on the fact that Kostroma will take an active part in this project, that we will have more Orthodox pilgrims and tourists. It is very important that further work continues to uncover the secrets and dark spots in history. Over the past few centuries, the history of the Romanov dynasty has acquired various legends. It is very important to know what

happened in the Russian Empire, in which society, the people, the elites were weak and could not resist this great tragedy - the loss of the whole state."



"Pilgrims visits Kostroma. Here is stored Theodore's icon of the Mother of God, one of the greatest shrines of the Russian Orthodox Church, a huge number of the Reverend Fathers live on the Kostroma land. And, of course, these are the places associated with the Romanov dynasty: the Ipatiev Monastery, the village of Domnino," said Metropolitan Kostroma and Nerekht Ferapont.

"The diocese itself has made several pilgrim routes, we are happy to invite everyone to make a journey. We have a pilgrimage hotel, and centre."

Alexander Svistunov, Director of the Department of Economic Development of the Kostroma Region:

"There are cases when tourists from other regions are served by tour guides arriving with the group, but who do not possess the relevant competences and knowledge on the history of Kostroma, who do not have the proper skills of conducting excursions and, as a consequence, provide low-quality services to tourists. Therefore, as a proposal for discussion - in the framework of the "Imperial Route" project, use only the services of guides included in the Regional Register (now 68 people) or the introduction of certification for their services.

Anna Gromova - "It is very important for us that all those who will work on the route will conduct their work in accordance with historical truth. Elisavetinsky-Sergievsky society will carry out scientific guidance on the Route."

"The fact that the Forum is held in Kostroma is also connected with the development of the imperial route, because when we study a problem and set a big task, we always turn to the sources, to the very beginning. And this cradle of the Imperial House of the Romanovs is the very best beginning, which was supposed to be the greatness of the dynasty, and everything began in Kostroma. I am sure that those people who come to Kostroma will get joyful, positive and creative impressions of the Imperial Route.

Questions of the development of regional and foreign modules of the national tourist project "Imperial Route", promotion, maintenance of excursions and training of guides were discussed.

Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the creative and scientific community, historians, local historians, museum workers, specialists in the field of tourism and members of the Elizabeth movement discussed the way this work is conducted in the regions.

The perspectives of the Imperial Route in Klin were presented by Protopriest Oleg Denisyuk, and Mother Superior of the Klobukovo Convent of the City of Kashin, Abbess Varvara (Ivanova) introduced the participants of the forum to the participation of the Royal Family in the celebration of Anna Kashinskaya.

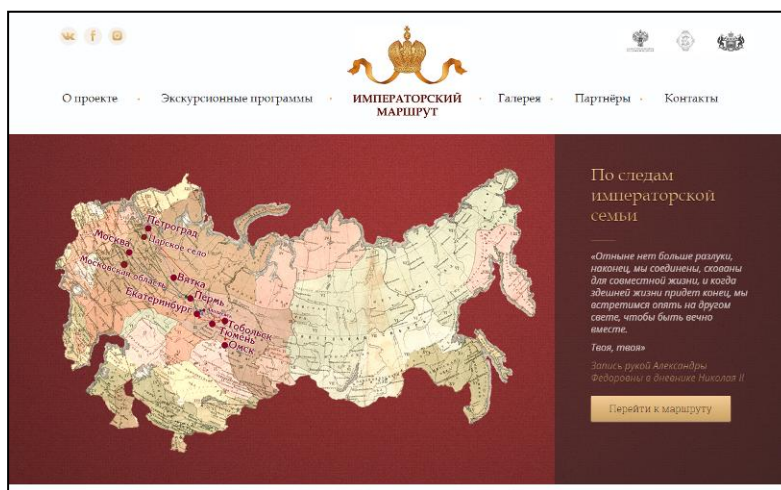
Very informative was the presentation of the Abbess Elizabeth (Koltsova) of the Holy Elizabethan Convent in Kaliningrad. The monastery is also a tourist attraction of the Kaliningrad region. There are two functioning churches and a cathedral under construction. A few years ago there was installed a 25-meter Orthodox cross - the highest Orthodox cross in Russia and Europe. There is a hotel, a monastery cafe, an ostrich farm, a children's playground.



The web site of the national tourist project "The Imperial Route"

The project is being implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in conjunction with the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society".

The aim of the project "The Imperial Route" is the revival of the foundations of the historical, cultural and spiritual component of Russia, its achievements during the reign of the Romanov Dynasty. It will tell about how the family of the last Emperor lived and kept high traditions of piety, about the members of the Imperial family - generous patrons and tireless benefactors.



Web site - <http://xn--80aanlcgfnfgincfajoks2h.xn--p1ai/>

"From now on, there is no more separation, at last, we are united, constrained to live together, and when the life here comes to an end, we will meet again in another world, to be together forever.

Yours"

Alexandra Feodorovna in the diary of Nicholas II





Concert-requiem for the 100th anniversary of the memory of Royal Martyrs

May 15, 2018 in the Hall of Columns of the House of Unions, a concert-requiem for the 100th anniversary of the memory of the Royal Martyrs was held.

The commemorative event took place with the support of the Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations of the City of Moscow, the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society and the Foundation for the Revival of the Synodal Choir.

The history of the Royal Martyrs - the Most Pious Sovereign Emperor Nikolai Alexandrovich, his wife Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the heir Alexei Nicholaevich, the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, who humbly accepted all the hard trials, allowed to see how it is possible for a man to follow Christ and be faithful to Him, despite all the life's tribulations and trials. What the holy Royal Martyrs have endured is beyond the boundaries of human understanding. Only a true heart can bear such a heavy cross and be faithful to Him to the end for the sake of the redemption of his country.

The music and literary composition of the requiem concert is one of the most famous church composers of our time - Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk. His works appeal to the noblest feelings of the audience, connecting the earthly and heavenly. Notable music is eternal, as is the memory of the greatest people of our time.

Moscow Synodal Choir with the Youth Synodal Choir, under directions of Honoured Artist of Russia Alexey Puzakov and Mikhail Kotelnikov, as well as the VOCE ANIMA Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Alexei Medvedev participated in the concert-requiem. Soloists were People's Artist of the RSFSR Valentina Talyzina, Artemiy Melnikov, Oleg Isaev, Naira Asatryan, Ivan Shcherbatykh, Daniil Semenov, and Alexander Dzyuba. Conductors during the performance were Alexey Puzakov, Ivan Nikiforchin, and Mikhail Kotelnikov.



The event was a charitable concert, where all the proceeds from ticket sales will go for the restoration of the ancient monument of Moscow architecture - the Life-Giving Trinity Church at the former Bakhrushin brothers' shelter. Fragments of the unique painting of the brush by V.M. Vasnetsov is miraculously preserved on its walls.



Diaries, documents, memoirs of contemporaries, as well as the text of the Gospel are combined in the concert-requiem, telling about the tragic events of 1918-1919. Metropolitan Hilarion, while creating the work, carried out a great study. In the archives he studied the tragic fate of the Imperial Family, the history of repression, and of camps.

"It is no accident that the church canonized the Imperial Family. Many people suffered, were brutally killed, but not all of them canonized. And those who bravely met their death, who brought their lives as a sacrifice to Christ, are listed in the church as saints," explained the chairman of the Department for External Church Relations, Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev).



*Left - Zoya Semenova, Paul and Ludmila Kulikovsky attending the concert-requiem.
Right - Anna V. Gromova and Metropolitan Hilarion during the concert-requiem*

Valentina Talyzina embodies all the female images in the requiem. She believes that the events about which the work relates are not sufficiently understood by society. "The material knocked me off the ground. I was under the impression for two days. These are crazy documents and emotionally awful," - shared the People's Artist of Russia.

Actor Alexander Dzyuba announces facts and figures. There are no historical discoveries in this text. It is official data and open documents. But the actor is sure, most people in our country do not know the details of this story. "70 thousand killed, repressed in the Gulag, 12-year-old and 14-year-old children, who were shot in batches at the Butovo landfill. Personally, I think about how to restrain myself, so a lump does not come up to my throat and makes it difficult to pronounce all these figures," the actor told.

Chorus, orchestra, text, newsreel footage and photo materials. The creators of the requiem tried to ensure that those who are in the room, immersed in the history and understand its symbolic meaning.

"History, according to the plan of the lord, is consonant with the history of the Gospel, the betrayal of Jesus Christ, his execution, crucifixion and resurrection. But the resurrection is seen as a revival of the Christian faith in our Fatherland," explained art director, chief conductor Alexei Puzakov.

So the composition of the requiem is built - from tragedy to hope.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/252285/



Memorial service for Emperor Nicholas II was held in Novospassky Monastery

May 19th, in the Transfiguration Cathedral, in the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow, after the Divine Liturgy, a moleben (memorial service) dedicated to the birthday of Emperor Nicholas II was held. Attending the service were Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy.



After the moleben flowers were laid at the monument to Tsar Michael Feodorovich and Emperor Nicholas II, which stand next to the cathedral and the Tomb of the Romanov Boyars.

Then opened the photo exhibition "The Fate of the Tsar - the Fate of Russia", attended by representatives of public organizations and museums of Moscow, experts from the field of art, researchers and collectors, who came to honour the memory of the holy Tsar-martyr Nicholas II.





Left - Irina Plotnikova telling about the frescos to Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy. Right - A fresco showing Tsar Alexei Michaelovich arriving at the Novospassky Monastery, being received by Archimandrite Tikhon (later Patriarch Tikhon)

Having familiarized with the stands of the exhibition, telling about the life of the Imperial family and about who Emperor Nicholas II was for Russia, the participants of the memorable events inspected the the restored frescos in the archway of the big bell tower of the monastery.

The "Tsar Day" ended in the "Tower" where the interactive museum "Chernikov's Workshop" is located. A "birthday- tea party" was prepared by the creator of the workshop Olga Chernikova, who personally met the guests.

At the tea-party were expressed reflection on the memory of the Sovereign, and his 400-year-old family, which gave Russia worthy rulers.

Paul Kulikovskiy thanked everyone who organized this holiday and came to honour the memory of his grandfather's uncle - Tsar-Martyr Nicholas Alexandrovich.



Exhibitions honouring the 150 years birthday anniversary



The Artillery Museum in St. Petersburg, presents the exhibition "The weapons of Emperor Nicholas II: On the 150th Anniversary of Birth" from 18 May to 30 September 2018.

May 18 in the House of Books in Dzerzhinsk an educational photo exhibition under the general title "Crowned family" was launched. Exposition items are retrospective photographs, accompanied by biography. The exhibition was created in order to give the example of the Holy Family of Royal Passion-Bearers to young people an example of patriotism and a spiritual happy family life based Christian piety, love and patriotism.



May 19, 2018 in the spiritual and educational center "Tsarsky" the exhibition "Great and Terrible Year 1918 of the Nativity of Christ" was opened.

It is dedicated to the events of 1918: tragedies in Perm, Alapaevsk and Yekaterinburg, the 100th anniversary of the spiritual feat of the Imperial Family, the beginning of the Civil War in Russia, the policy of the new government and culture of this period.



The exhibition features original documents, weapons, awards, household items, photographs, stamps, coins, banknotes of 1918, supplemented with thematic banners that will tell the audience the history of the tragic events. The exhibition will last until October 1, 2018

The exhibition "Romanovs. Family archive", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II, opened in Tsarskoye Selo

May 22 at the museum-reserve "Tsarskoye Selo" opened the exhibition "Romanovs. Family Archive", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II. The museum presents for the first time to visitors the archive of the Romanovs, found in the past year. In the hundred-year history of the museum, this is the largest whole collection of documents and photographs associated with the crown dynasty, which has replenished its collection.

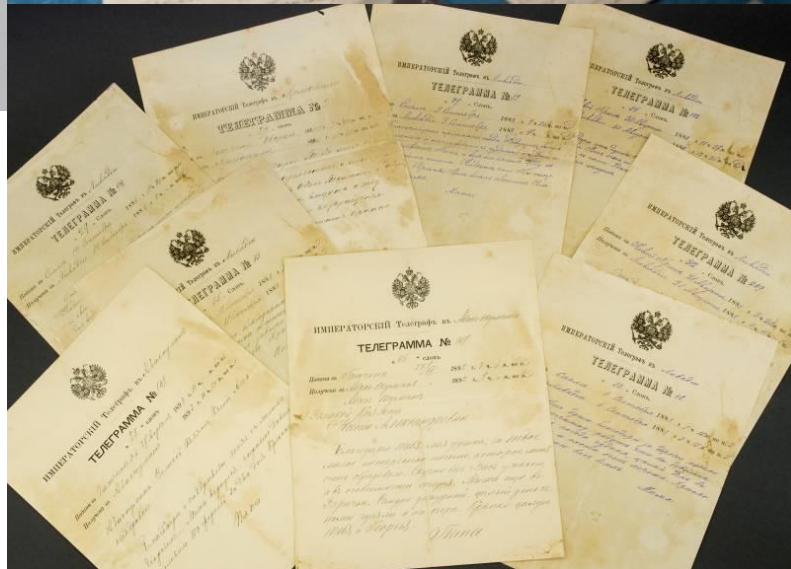


In 2018, 150 years have passed since the birth of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, whose life was closely connected with Tsarskoye Selo: on May 18 (May 6, old style), in 1868, he was born in the Alexander Palace. Nourishing the warmest feelings for Tsarskoye Selo since birth, from 1905 Nicholas II made it his permanent residence, in which he spent the last 12 years of reign. In the Alexander Palace, the first months of the Emperor's imprisonment passed after his abdication. It was from here on August 1, 1917, his family was sent into exile in Tobolsk.



On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the last Emperor and the owner of Tsarskoye Selo, the museum offers visitors a chance to get acquainted with the collection of personal documents and

photos of the Romanov dynasty, acquired in London in 2017 thanks to the financial support of Sberbank of Russia.



The archive, covering the period of Russian history from 1866 to the 1920s, includes 200 pieces of museum material. Among them - telegrams of Emperor Alexander III and his wife Maria Feodorovna with warm messages to their children.

Laconic, but parental warm messages on telegraph forms from Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna testify how the crowned couple cherished family values. In separation, the loving father always allocated time to share with his children his successes in hunting, fishing, reporting his health, writing how he misses them: "Thank you, my darling, for your nice interesting letter, which I was very pleased. Boring without you is awful, and especially today. Misha is still in the district. Sandro on duty, spent the whole day with us and on the lake. I kiss you warmly and George. Dad".

The exhibition presents the letters of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna to her younger brother Mikhail, with whom she was in correspondence from a young age. Hardly having learned to write, the little brother and sister shared impressions of new discoveries, funny occasions from their still carefree life. Later, after marrying the Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich, Xenia never forgot her "dear Mishkin." Young spouses often wrote to the Grand Duke about their pastime from their Crimean estate "Ai-Todor" and the Caucasian "Abas-Tuman". In letters from the French city of Biarritz, Alexander Mikhailovich with great interest shared the description of motor-walking, his hobbies, hunting, fishing, archaeological excavations, playing tennis, golf and maps. The correspondence of Xenia and Michael for 1913 demonstrates a new stage of uneasy family relations.

A big event for the museum was the acquisition of several autographs of Emperor Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna as part of the archive. The Empress's letters are supplemented by her Easter gift to Ksenia - her own watercolour drawing with a congratulatory signature.

The events of 1917-1918 tragic for Russia are described in the letters of Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich to Prince Georgi Shervashidze - the Ober-Hofmeister, who was under Empress Maria Feodorovna. Written in a beaded handwriting and similar to the diary entries of the Grand Duke's message, his vision and understanding of Russia's future fate are recorded. From revolutionary Petrograd, Nikolai Mikhailovich writes to his friend in Crimea: "It's hard to tell what's going on here, but not only here, but all over Russia. If the regime of the Bolsheviks comes to an end, then little good can be expected from their successors, essers or simply anarchists. All state bases have already been destroyed, and I do not see on the horizon those persons who could reconstruct anything solid on ruins."

With the growing nationalization of property, which took place throughout the country, the Grand Duke collided in February 1918: "Yesterday I was forced to leave my palace, to leave rooms and things to the mercy of fate and move to another house for the apartment of one of the employees ... I live in one room on the 4th floor ... My palace was chosen for the headquarters of the new Red Army... ". As if in anticipation of his tragic fate, the Grand Duke finishes the letter with a hopeless line: "I do not know if we are destined to meet again on this earth, but in the next world my feelings for you will remain invariably friendly. All your NM."

This meeting was not destined to come true. Georgi Dmitrievich Shervashidze died in the Crimea on March 26, 1918, and Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich was shot on January 9, 1919 in the Peter and Paul Fortress.



The plans include the publication of a catalog that will allow us to get acquainted with the texts presented at the exposition of the documents in more detail.

The exhibition is open in the working hours of the Catherine Palace until December 2018.

Overcoming oblivion ... to the revival of faith and the Fatherland: Public Forum for the preservation of the heritage of Emperor Nicholas II was held in Yekaterinburg

May 18, 2018, a public forum was held to preserve the heritage of the Emperor Nicholas II. Scientists and representatives of the public, discussing the urgent issues of preserving the historical memory of the Sovereign, came to the necessity of recognizing the merit of Nicholas II for the development of the Russian state and the public assessment of the murder of the Emperor's family committed a hundred years ago.



Opening the forum, Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, noted that Yekaterinburg "has become a symbol of the tragedy of the Tsar's family and, together with her, our Motherland." " Since these tragic events took place 100 years ago, tragic for the people, but great and martyr for the Holy Royal Family, it is here, on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, that the holy cause is to gather and reflect on what was the Russian Empire during his reign, what was our great country, and what should we take from the past, what lessons, what edifications should we learn for our own lives, - said His Eminence.



Speaking on behalf of regional authorities, the chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region, Lyudmila Babushkina, noted that without respect for our own history, the brightest and solemn pages, there is no present and future.

- Common humanistic and moral ideals at all times brought people together, for centuries the Russian people held together, helping them to overcome any trials. As the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin noted, the law can protect morality, and should do it, but morality can not be established by law. Today, we need a morally verified assessment of the causes and consequences of events and processes of the past century," the speaker of the regional parliament emphasized.

The special guest of the forum - the chairman of the Society for the Development of Russian Historical Education "Two-Headed Eagle" Konstantin Malofeev, noted "the triumph of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II" for the entire thousand-year history of Russia.

- For all of Russia's history, it was the most powerful, the biggest, the happiest, if you mean demography - exactly the reign of Nicholas II. We should not forget this, and our forum is dedicated to

this, which we, the society of historical enlightenment "Two-headed Eagle", proudly hold together with the Yekaterinburg metropolis.

The forum was also attended by Bishop Evgeny of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansky, Bishop of Serov and Krasnoturinsky Alexy, Minister of Education of the Sverdlovsk Region Yury Biktuganov, First Deputy Minister of Culture of the Sverdlovsk Region Vladimir Manturov, as well as representatives of the Society for the Development of Russian Historical Education "Two-Headed Eagle", World Russian People's Council, The Imperial Palestinian Orthodox Society, historians, philosophers, theologians, public figures from Russia, Serbia and Bulgaria.

Within the framework of the forum, experts assessed the era of the reign of the last Russian Emperor as a time, providing a breakthrough in the development of the state and creating the foundations of socio-economic, including technological development for decades to come. Experts came to the conclusion that Nicholas II was one of the most effective Russian rulers and issued a number of initiatives to perpetuate the memory of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich as an outstanding statesman. Among the proposals is the need for a large-scale federal information and enlightenment campaign on Russia's achievements in the era of Nicholas II, the development of textbooks and other scientific and educational literature on the basis of reliable scientific information on era, the state order for quality works of art in various fields of culture and art; importance of historical archival research and public dialogue of the scientific community and citizens interested in history; installation in the cities and towns of Russia monuments to the Sovereign - with such an initiative made a member of the Regional Public Chamber, chairman of the Ural branch of the Union of Russian Paratroopers Yevgeny Teterin.

An important topic of the forum was the discussion of the need for public evaluation of the murder of the Imperial Family and their faithful servants, which occurred a century ago in the house of engineer Ipatiev in Yekaterinburg. The tragedy of 1918, crowned with the feat of holy Royal Passion-Bearers, has not yet been properly evaluated at the state level.

During the forum on May 18, views on the Sovereign and the era were presented at the forum by: Peter Multatuli, Vladimir Lavrov, Egor Kholmogorov, Georgi Dimov, and Dmitry Grishin.

The forum was held at the Yekaterinburg cinema-concert theatre "Kosmos", which housed about 2,000 participants. The event, which became a significant public event, was covered by the leading federal and regional media and was broadcast by the Orthodox television channel Soyuz to 82 countries with a multi-million audience.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=25&v=0-F1IDvGjs

The Imperial Ball in Yekaterinburg

May 18, 2018, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II, in Yekaterinburg, in the residence of the governor - Sevastyanov House, an Imperial Ball was solemnly opened. The ceremony was led by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye and head of the administration of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Vladimir Georgievich Tungusov.

Vladyka expressed his gratitude to Governor Yevgeny Kuyvashev and his assistants, for the provided rooms, in which Imperial Balls for the best graduates of the Middle Urals have been held for several years in a row.

Congratulating everyone on the coming birthday of the Emperor Nicholas II and noting his services to our country, Metropolitan Kirill noted that "if history developed consistently, without great upheavals, tomorrow there would be a national holiday."



"Today the best representatives of the best part of our society have gathered here, because they are young, energetic, they have everything ahead," the ruling bishop addressed the graduates who took part in the Imperial Ball. - You can have the best diplomas of the best universities, but at the same time be an unhappy person, dependent, spiteful, and not leave behind any good trace. We would very much like you to grow up to be decent people, and our country, worthy of a great deal, great and glorious, in your person would receive such worthy citizens.

I wish you God's help in your further works and I am glad that you are those who follow us today, but who have a wonderful hope for a better and more perfect world, thanks to the fact that you will discover the name of Emperor Nicholas and many saints and fine people of our Motherland, for example, who should strive to improve their own personal path. God help you!"

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACGO5sGTI2o>

Children's procession in honour of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II was held in Yekaterinburg

May 20, 2018 in Yekaterinburg with the blessing of the Metropolitan of Ekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill, after the Divine Liturgy in the Church "Big Chrysostom" was a procession with the participation of students of Sunday schools, secondary schools, St. Simeon High School, representatives of the Orthodox movement "Believe. We are acting!", pupils of the "Brotherhood of Orthodox Pathfinders", cadets, participants of children's patriotic associations, students, teachers and parents - parishioners of churches in Yekaterinburg. About a thousand children took part in the procession.



In 2018, the prayer procession was held as part of the celebrations held in the Yekaterinburg Diocese on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II. Young people carried placards with the image of the Emperor and members of the Holy Royal Family.

The procession proceeded from the Church of "Big Chrysostom" to the chapel of St. Catherine the Great Martyr on the Square of Labor. The column was headed by the head of the Department of Religious Education and Catechization of the Yekaterinburg Diocese, Priest Andrei Shchukin, confessor of the Holy Simeon Orthodox Gymnasium Priest Sergiy Nikitin, as well as clergymen of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.

At the chapel of St. Catherine the Great Martyr, the clergy performed a thanksgiving service for the end of the school year.

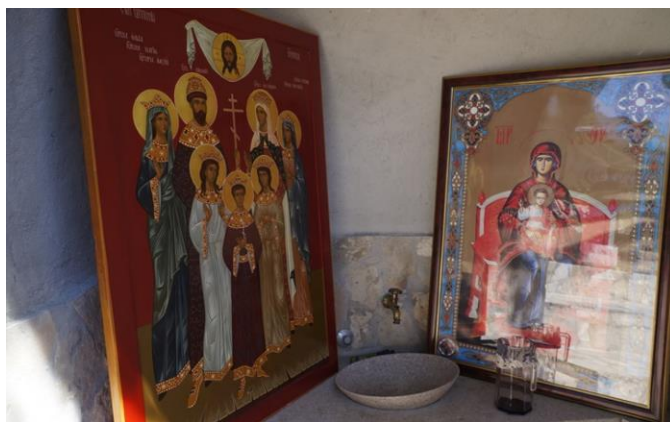
Memorial chapel of the Imperial Passion-Bearers in the Dajbaba monastery, Montenegro

The hundredth anniversary of the suffering of the Russian Imperial Romanov Family was commemorated in the Dajbabe Monastery near Podgorica in Montenegro. This was the start of a four-day spiritual manifestation "Romanov Family - Hundred Years of Holiness".

The Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro held four days of masses for the Romanov Family across the country, organized roundtables, exhibitions and book promotions while hosting the Russian Church and state officials.

The Serbian Orthodox Church said that people in Montenegro should never forget their gratitude to the Tsars.

"Without the help of Russia, there would have been no liberation of our people from Ottoman slavery. We are aware of this, and with the great gratitude we remember the great love of the Russian people and the Russian Emperor for Montenegro," Joanikije, the Bishop of Budimlike-Niksic, said.



The bishop said that it is no coincidence that today the monument dedicated to Emperor Nicholas II, whom Montenegro has endlessly loved, is celebrated here. Nicholas II was a great benefactor.

The Serbian Orthodox Church's senior bishop in Montenegro, Amfilohije, said that the murder of the Imperial Family had been a great crime.

"They killed the Emperor and the Empress, and even though the Emperor had given up power to save his people, they killed their children ... You can imagine what a crime that was," Amfilohije said.

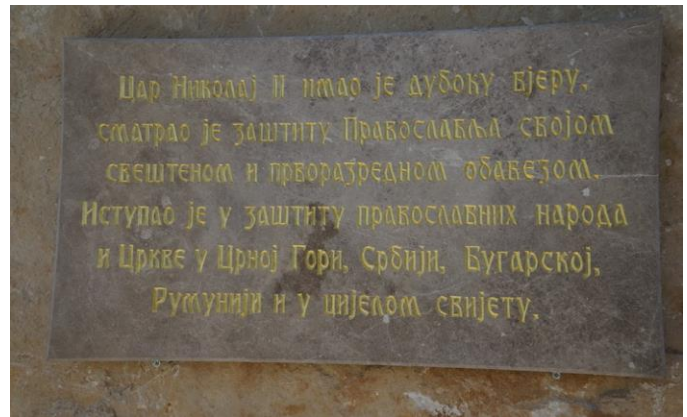
"Emperor Nicholas, Empress Alexandra, and their children Alexei, Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia, their life is a life of baptism and crucifixion, and through them the lives of the infinite mother of Russia," said Bishop Amfilohije.

"One of the testimonies - the Church of Saint Vasilij Ostroski in Niksic, which he founded. Another - the Emperor's Bridge, which links Old Herzegovina with Montenegro.

One of the testimonies is the stone foundation for the Holy Trinity Church, which Emperor Nicholas II laid during coronation festivities at the time of

the crowning of King Nikola in Cetinje. Unfortunately, the Balkan wars started, World War I, the Emperor died together with his people, and no endowment in Cetinje was raised," - he said.

Metropolitan Amfilohije recalled that Emperor Nicholas II saved Serbia and Montenegro in the First World War.



THE RACE TO SAVE THE ROMANOV

The Race to Save the Romanovs

Author Helen Rappaport has an impressive catalogue of 13 books to her name that include "Conspirator: Lenin in Exile", "Magnificent Obsession: Victoria, Albert and the Death that Changed the Monarchy" and her recent "Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd 1917". She has worked in the theatre with the likes of Tom Stoppard and David Hare, as advisor and translator for their London West End productions of Russian plays, most notably Chekhov. And she has made numerous TV and radio appearances in historical documentaries, as well as acting as historical advisor to many more TV programmes such as the first two series of ITV's "Victoria". Readers of Romanov News will probably have seen Helen in the documentary "Russia's Lost Princesses". Helen describes herself as a "Russianist" and a "Victorianist". Having both these interests, it was inevitable that Helen would become a "Romanovist" as well. In 2008 she published "Ekaterinburg: The Last Days of the Romanovs", and in 2014 her best selling "Four Sisters" about the lives of Nicholas II's daughters. Both books used previously unpublished sources and challenged standard thinking on the history of the Imperial family. Her next book is called "The Race to Save the Romanovs - The Truth Behind the Secret Plans to Rescue the Russian Imperial Family". It is being published in the UK and USA in June, and will also be coming out in Russian. Romanov News's UK Correspondent recently met Helen to find out more.

Helen Rappaport interviewed by Sue Woolmans

Why are you writing another Romanov book, and can you really find something new to say about any plans to spirit the Romanovs out of Russia?

I am quite expecting that accusation to be made by people before they see the amount of effort I have put into the research for this book. The reason I decided to do it was because I got so fed up with the same old stock phrases being trotted out by people - "Oh it was all King George's fault. Why didn't he gallop in and rescue the Romanovs like some heroic gallant knight". As though King George could suddenly and miraculously send agents into Siberia at that turbulent point in Russian history to extract seven people - and get them from there to the safety of Britain. Immediately you go beyond these accusations against George V, and start looking into the logistics you think "hang on a minute, how could anyone have got them out?" Even with the best will in the world, I don't think any government, let

alone the British one, could have succeeded. And so the more I dug into it, the more I realised that this was a much more complicated story and one that had to be looked at on several levels. There were many aspects to what I saw as a shared political and moral responsibility – responsibility being the operative word. I wanted to apportion responsibility rather than blame. Because, as I conclude at the end of the book, you can't really blame anyone - anything anyone might have tried to do was doomed by the circumstances of 1917/18.

To start with, I felt I needed to look at all the different players in the story - the British government, the diplomats here in Europe and in Russia, the Provisional government, the Petrograd Soviet, the Royal Families particularly of Denmark, Russia and Britain; and also the German Kaiser and the Spanish king. The other big factor that no one has looked at until now is the geography - the logistics, not just of the distances involved to take the family to safety; but how could they have been transported? How could you get them out in wartime beyond the coast of Russia? How could you find a sufficient number of loyal and trustworthy people all the way down the line to help facilitate this? How could you get seven Romanovs out of either the Governor's or Ipatiev House without people being killed? I mean it's an unbelievably complex idea. The more I looked at it the more I realised there were so many ramifications to this story; so many issues that you have to take account of. You can't just isolate King George and point the finger and say it was all his fault.

Why has everyone been doing that for years?

Because no one has stopped to be truly objective and logical about it. Because everyone has jumped to this terrible standard emotional conclusion - you either save them or you don't save them. In order to really look at it properly you have to go piece by piece through all the evidence - the discussions of what went on, who said what, what memo was sent, what telegram was sent. And you've got to unravel it all: it's like a great long piece of knitting and you've got to unpick it and look at every stage of the story up to George changing his mind. And then beyond George's involvement as well, because there are so many other things that came into play. Any one of the European monarchs might have wanted to save them but doing something practical, and getting them out is an entirely different matter. I think people have concentrated too much on the impetus to save them rather than the practicalities such as which railway lines were available and would the Bolsheviks have stopped the train carrying the family and hauled them off? If you got them all the way up to Murmansk, was it free of ice? Was there an available British ship that could have got there – bearing in mind this is the middle of a war? There's so many points in that idea of rescue where things could have just gone totally wrong – or, more probably have simply never got off the ground.



Author Helen Rappaport

Was there no chance at all the family could have escaped?

For me, the only moment where it could have worked was as soon as Nicholas had abdicated at Stavka. He should have got on a train at that point and got straight out of Russia, independently, without his family. But of course, he wouldn't do that, he insisted on going back to Tsarskoe Selo. As for Alexandra, as soon as the Revolution started in Petrograd, before the abdication and whilst she still

had the power as Empress, she should have made the decision to get the children out. It would have been a very tough decision remembering that they were still recovering from the measles and Maria in particular was very ill. But she was warned by prime minister Rodzianko that it was better to risk them travelling ill with the measles than being killed – when the house is on fire, you carry the sick children out, he had said to Benckendorff. But once the revolution really took hold, and the workers were controlling the railways, Alexandra had lost any chance of escape. The other thing people don't realise is how crazy an idea it was that you could just get the Romanovs, put them on a train and hooray they would all be safe. Actually, I doubt very much if they'd even have got them from Tsarskoe Selo and safely through Petrograd, because they would have had to go through that busy railway junction in Petrograd to get them out. Finland would have been the logical and quickest way out - up to the border at Tornio and then, down through Sweden. The alternative – going north east and up to Murmansk was much further. And that was only a single track rail line, so was very vulnerable.

And if they had got out at that point, who would have taken them?

The British because the original deal was they would take them for the duration of war. And they would have felt honour bound to take them if Alexandra had turned up as a refugee. But again, it wasn't just a matter of getting to the Arctic coast; there had to be a British ship in the area that could go and pick them up. I doubt very much whether any other government would have been prepared to go this far. Once the family were out of Russia, it was another matter entirely. There would and could then have been a debate about where best they should settle in the long term.

So how did you go about unravelling and unpicking the knitting - the trail of what actually took place?

There was absolutely no way I would write this or any other book if I couldn't say new things. I knew that if I was going to do this story and try and uncover what happened, and expand on the very limited knowledge we have of what went on from the abdication till their murders - then I would have to do an absolutely exhaustive search. I did not want to do a retread of existing material. First of all I singled out all the different royal houses involved, though I knew that for every royal house there may or may not be material. And I already knew that the Scandinavians were going to be a problem because their archives are pretty much inaccessible. I started searching across eight



View from the Alexander palace to the park. Photo by Helen Rappaport

languages for material. Some of it was archival, some obscurely published. I compiled a card index of every name and every player in the story who might have had something to say and dug deep with each of them to look for new material - particularly of course in the National Archives at Kew. They were an absolute key resource and I did have fantastic help from my friend Phil Tomaselli. He has had years of experience researching there in papers relating to WW1 and the British Secret Service. We scoured for all and every possible source we could find, well beyond the existing documents already cited. Since "File on the Tsar" by Summers and Mangold in 1976, The National Archives have had lots of freedom of information requests from people asking to see all the papers relating to the Romanovs; there has been a fixation that things had been suppressed or destroyed. The Archives produced a list of the basic papers relating to the Romanovs some while back, and they have been quoted and quoted ad nauseum. But there is other information there if you look hard enough. The way to do it is to home in on aspects of the story for example Murmansk - papers other than Foreign Office ones for example, that might refer to Murmansk. The whole point with research is that you have to go in sideways -

thinking laterally. If you just plod down the straight logical route, you will not come up with anything new. And that is what everyone has done since Massie's 1967 book. But you have to open doors, open files with just the thought that there "might be something in there". You've also got to explore every possible language where something might have been said.



How have you coped with languages that you don't speak (Helen is a fluent Russian speaker, and also has Spanish, French and rusty German but no Scandinavian languages)?

I personally prefer to do all my own research if time and distance makes it humanly possible. But I just had to get someone to help with the Scandinavian languages immediately. And it just so happened that the person I found was also a German translator so he covered all those languages for me. But at least I knew enough German to spot what was relevant. Also, dear Karen Roth helped with some German and Scandinavian material in the early stages. I knew enough Spanish to start digging, but received help and some useful leads from well known historian Ricardo Mateos Sainz de Medrano. Then a Spanish translator volunteered her help to me, and she was able to chase down material and double checked my interpretation of Spanish sources. I wasn't actually expecting much in the way of material in Russia, but I found some very useful information in one of the much more difficult archives to access. But I could only do this by sending a researcher there who was in Moscow. A friend recommended one who was brilliant. And I must say thank you to all the many people on the Romanov interest circuit who offered help, advice and contacts, and also sent me material. Their help is acknowledged in the book. In the best of worlds I would love to have done all this myself without help, but it takes time and money to get to all the countries. Also the big stumbling block with any original material is that if it's handwritten you can be stymied if its unreadable. Russian handwriting can be very difficult; and the old Deutsche schrift is a nightmare too.

I was particularly concerned about the vague story about the Murmansk house. This was a wooden house supposedly built by the Hudson's Bay Company, in Murmansk, with the express purpose of providing shelter for the escaping Romanov family. I just felt there was nothing there to convince anyone that it really existed, and for this specific purpose. It cost me a considerable sum to employ a very good researcher in Canada go to the Winnipeg archives to check this out; I was able to reassure myself that a previous author had been mistaken and misunderstood some evidence.

You have to do things like that – and it isn't cheap. Negative results are just as expensive as positive ones! And the whole Jonas Lied story is an extremely contentious one that I worked very hard to investigate. Lied supposedly concocted a rescue plan from Tobolsk by river. I had some moments during the research when I was sitting there looking at material when I thought, "Oh for goodness sake they have got completely the wrong end of the stick". Things have been wildly misinterpreted or people have jumped to totally erroneous conclusions. They have taken one small document and considered that sufficient proof that something happened.

There has also been a huge investment of hope, based on little or no solid evidence, in the stories that King Alphonso miraculously rescued the family. These are all part and parcel of the mythology surrounding the end of the Romanovs stories that has never been properly investigated and analysed. Alphonso's efforts heroic though they were, were completely null and void as they came after the family had already been murdered. And people must accept that.

Why did no other countries offer asylum to the family at least at first?

Politically it was too compromising. The simple fact is that Nicholas and Alexandra were political pariahs. And with all the royals, it was a case of buck passing - if someone else was taking the initiative, let them. There were lots of protocols that had to be observed too. In the case of the royals, too much of that got in the way all the time. They had to do what they were told, they were constitutional monarchs, they could not take executive action and dive in and help. You just have to look at the appalling palaver over whether George V and Queen Mary should or shouldn't go to their own cousins memorial service in London!

A lot was to do with the constraints of wartime: economic interests, trade and also just the internal political stability of their own countries. The Danes had a lot of economic ties with Russia. Also they were quite ambivalent about helping Nicholas and Alexandra, although they were desperate to help the Dowager. I found it very very difficult to get a precise fix on the Danish royal family's attitude and their archives are a no go area. The only Dane who really comes out of this with honour is Harold Scavenius. For me he is an absolute hero. He worked tirelessly in Petrograd helping people who were stuck there. He kept close tabs on what was going on with the Imperial family. He also helped smuggle out George Brasov, Grand Duke Michael's son to safety in Copenhagen.

The other concern was political: all the royal families and their governments were worried about Nicholas having been tainted by events of Bloody Sunday in 1905. And Alexandra had by now been entirely demonised by the western press for her relationship with Rasputin, and as a German sympathiser.

Another problem for the British was that they had actually recognised the new Provisional Government. But the real issue was the Petrograd Soviet. They put a block almost immediately on the Romanovs being taken out of Russia. And the role of the Petrograd Soviet is another angle of the story that hasn't been sufficiently evaluated - how difficult they made it for the Provisional Government to do anything. This is very important because almost from day one after the abdication, they said they didn't want the Romanovs to be allowed into exile because Nicholas had to be put on trial to pay for his crimes.

If it hadn't been for Dowager Queen Alexandra nagging George V, would the rest of the Romanovs have ended up being shot in the Crimea?

The Dowager Queen and Grand Duchess George actually. Grand Duchess George was a thorn in George's side demanding he help the poor Grand Dukes in the Peter and Paul Fortress. I think, obviously, the minute the Romanovs were killed - and George had heard by the end of September that all of them had been killed - George and Mary were so utterly horrified that to save their consciences, they had to try and do something to help those who were left. Which is exactly why Empress Marie Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Xenia etc were got out on the Marlborough in 1919. What is interesting that I found in the Foreign Office papers, and that no one had mentioned, is that Queen Alexandra was constantly going on at the government to do something for Empress Marie. What really annoyed the government and Foreign Office was that she kept trying to go behind their backs to send private messages, and also kept asking the Ambassador in Petrograd to pass on letters. She kept trying to intervene and sent personal pleas. She knew Dagmar wasn't very well with a stomach complaint. But neither she, nor anyone else was pestering about Nicholas and Alexandra. Complacency ruled: they were out of sight out of mind. Sadly, Alexandra was the problem for many of the relatives who would otherwise have lobbied for the Imperial family. They all seemed convinced, even the British government seemed convinced, that she was a German sympathiser. And the hostility towards her and even Nicholas meant that people's attitude toward asylum for the family was tempered by that suspicion.

What evidence did any of them have of Alexandra's supposed German sympathies?

It's all down to her relationship with Rasputin - all the rumours, the innuendo, the unproven gossip, the salacious rubbish that was circulated. There were insinuations - that he was a German spy which couldn't be further from the truth, that Alexandra was a spy too, and that they were in cahoots. That mud stuck. And once that kind of gossip has gone into the public consciousness, you can't really get it out again. I think there was this persistent obsession with blaming her. I do have very ambivalent feelings about Alexandra, but she was horribly vilified. The character assassination targeted at her was shocking - in the press, by the relatives amongst themselves gossiping and bitching in their letters, the cruel and hateful things they said about her ... that made it very difficult for any government or any

royal family to act in an even handed way in terms of taking them in. That was the real stumbling block. I think if Alexandra had not been a German there would have been far less quibbling about them coming to England.

Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador in Petrograd until 1918, has received a pretty hard time too?

I think poor old George Buchanan has been horribly targeted, particularly by the Russians. It's very odd. Even looking at some fairly recent sources about him, the Russians are absolutely fixated that Buchanan betrayed the Romanovs in some way. And not only that, but he helped ferment the February revolution. I mean, really!! Take a look at Sir George Buchanan - the archetypal Etonian, old school, honourable career diplomat – it's about the last thing he would have done. He continued to press for help for the Imperial family even when the British government had said they weren't going to pursue the asylum offer. He tried suggesting they be got out in different ways. He tried every which way to help them. And he said to his family, "I shall not rest until they are safely out of Russia". He has been much maligned particularly by the likes of Princess Paley. Sir George had to hurry out the publication of his memoirs to defend himself against her libellous accusations. After his death in 1924, his daughter spent the rest of her life defending her father's honour. The only thing I would say, because he was a diplomat and a pragmatist, is that Sir George did concede, after the British had withdrawn their offer, that it was going to be a huge problem having them – or any other Romanovs - in the UK.

But what about the Russian monarchists? Didn't they have plans to rescue the family too?

Oh dear, the Russian monarchists. What can one say that isn't utterly negative. There were too many groups of them and no liaison between them – indeed there were jealous rivalries. Instead of coming together in a major, cohesive plan that might have worked, they dissipated their energies in a succession of half-baked schemes. They were hopeless. And what accounts I was able to track down – with considerable effort – were very poorly written and often contradicted each other. Suffice it to say that the various monarchist cells and cliques were characterised by their pie-eyed, impracticable, and totally foolhardy plans to rescue the Romanovs – from either the Alexander Palace, the Governor's House and even the Ipatiev House. In the vast majority of cases they were hopelessly disorganised, short of funds and did not properly investigate the logistics of any of their barmy plans to get the Romanovs out.

What are you doing for the centenary of the murders in Ekaterinburg?

I had been planning to travel to Ekaterinburg for the anniversary but for family reasons can no longer go. Instead I shall attend the Romanov events being mounted by the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society on the Isle of Wight 6-8 July. The location for most of these events, including talks and an exhibition, will be Barton Manor, where the Imperial Family met up with their British relatives during their family visit to Cowes in 1909. A memorial to the Romanovs will also be unveiled in Jubilee Park East Cowes. On the actual anniversary I hope to attend a liturgy in London at either Ennismore Gardens or Chiswick. I am also hoping that for the benefit of people around the world who cannot get to a Russian Orthodox church that Russian television may live-stream the ceremonies from Ekaterinburg so that we can all watch. I went to Ekaterinburg in 2007 just at the time they found Maria and Alexei's remains. For 10 years the Romanovs have inhabited my imagination. This book is my point of closure. And I really hope 2018 will be a point of closure for them too – we must let them rest in peace now. No more conspiracy theories. No more absurd claims about miraculous escape. I don't want any more crazy emails from people giving me nonsensical accounts of how they were got out based on virtually none or the most flimsy evidence. I want people to respect the Imperial Family for who they were and to acknowledge their murder happened, and that we have to actually accept it and move on now. The Russian people need to.

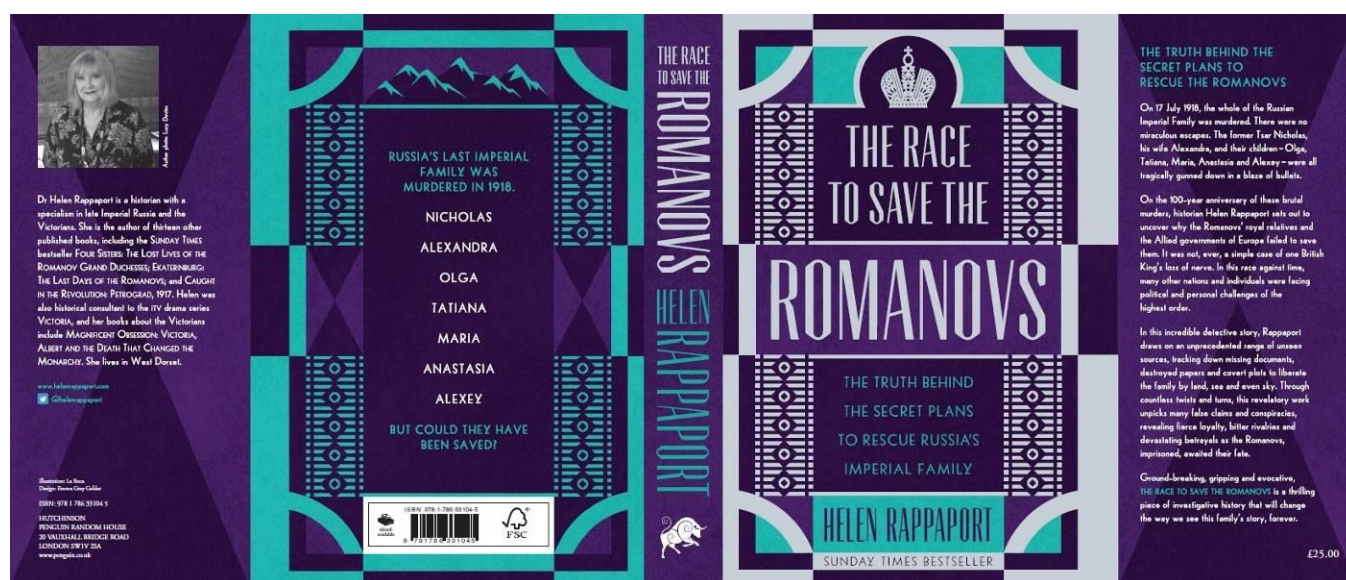


*"Forgive me my sovereign".
Photo by Helen Rappaport*

It's a really important moment for them - a time of reconciliation and begging for forgiveness. There are posters hung around Ekaterinburg saying "Forgive me my sovereign". They feel it so intensely – this sense of shared grief and responsibility for what happened. The Russians need this moment of closure. The most important thing to me now is that the Russian Orthodox Church acknowledge that the DNA results that they have recently organised match the results done in the 1990s, and match the remains found in 2007, and that they finally say officially that the Romanov family all died at Ekaterinburg. If the ROC finally comes out and sanctions the remains, people might, at last, start letting go. And it will also put paid, hopefully, to all the false claimants and conspiracy theories.

And this is your last Romanov book?

I don't think there's another Romanov book I want to write. I have certainly said all I want to say. There are of course, lots of other interesting Romanovs in the wider family, but the trouble is that, unfortunately, they might be fascinating to us, but trade publishers don't want to know. It's the Imperial family who hold this tragic, beautiful image in people's minds. They will be forever fascinating. They certainly will remain in my heart and imagination, having travelled this far with them over the last ten years.



The book is published June 26th in USA and June 28th in UK

"The Race to Save the Romanovs" is major new work of investigative history that will completely change the way in which we see the Romanov story. Finally, here is the truth about the secret plans to rescue Russia's last imperial family.

On 17 July 1918, the whole of the Russian Imperial Family was murdered. There were no miraculous escapes. The former Tsar Nicholas, his wife Alexandra, and their children – Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexey – were all tragically gunned down in a blaze of bullets.

On the 100-year-anniversary of these brutal murders, historian Helen Rappaport set out to uncover why the Romanovs' European royal relatives and the Allied governments failed to save them. It was not, ever, a simple case of one British King's loss of nerve. In this race against time, many other nations and individuals were facing political and personal challenges of the highest order.

In this incredible detective story, Rappaport draws on an unprecedented range of unseen sources, tracking down missing documents, destroyed papers and covert plots to liberate the family by land, sea and even sky. Through countless twists and turns, this revelatory work unpicks many false claims and conspiracies, revealing the fiercest loyalty, bitter rivalries and devastating betrayals as the Romanovs, imprisoned, awaited their fate.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

No real news....due to World Cup in Russia

In May there were no announcement of any results or statements related to the on-going investigation of the "Imperial remains". On the "grapevine" it is said, that the investigative commission is waiting for several results from FSB (Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation), but they are not expected ready before September. The reason being FSB is occupied with the upcoming World Cup football championship in Russia. In other words, the investigation is on a stand-by.



A competition to create a monument to Alexander III in Gatchina is announced

21 May - The Russian Historical Society (RIO) announced a competition to create a monument to Emperor Alexander III, which is planned to be installed in the courtyard of the Gatchina Palace. This said the chairman of the society Sergei Naryshkin on Monday at the meeting of the council of the RIO department in St. Petersburg.

"The monument depicting Alexander III sitting in a chair is proposed to be installed in the courtyard of the Great Gatchina Palace. The Russian Historical Society and the Russian Military Historical Society announce a competition for its creation," - Naryshkin said.

The chairman of the RIO recalled that Gatchina was Alexander III's favourite residence. In his opinion, the establishment of a monument to the Russian Sovereign is "correct and fair from a historical point of view."

It is assumed that the project will be based on the surviving model of the monument to Alexander III, created by the sculptor Paolo Trubetskoy and depicting the Monarch sitting in the chair. At the same time, Trubetskoy created the equestrian statue of the emperor, which is currently located in the courtyard of the Marble Palace in St. Petersburg.



Prizes in the names of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna

On May 11, in the October Hall of the House of Unions in Moscow, the annual, fifth awarding ceremony of Prize named after the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in the nomination "Patriotic Education of the Young Generation" and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in the nomination "Unselfish Service for Charity and Humanitarian education of the young generation", was held.

Traditionally, the awarding of prizes, established by the Moscow regional branch of the IOPS, takes place on the birthday of the first Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society - Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

Solemn meeting began with the blessing of metropolitan Zinoviy of Saransky and Mordovian.

Chairman of the Moscow regional branch of the IOPS, to the Honorary member of the Society, Professor Yuri Smirnov opened ceremony. He thanked Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergey Stepashin for the attention to the contest and his constant support and said that over the five years the winners of the awards were 297 people and organizations that made a great contribution to the strengthening of morality and patriotism in society that manifested themselves in the field of charity and mercy.



IOPS Chairman Sergei Stepashin thanked all those who participated in the organization and holding of the contest, as well as all those who daily supported his ideals with his deeds. He noted that the competition was held as a phenomenon in the public life of the country. And it's not even about the number of awardees, although the figure itself is impressive, but in the content side. He expressed gratitude to all those who by their work continue the affairs of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

"However, this year is a year of grief," the chairman of the IOPS noted. "This is the year of the 100th anniversary of the genocide of almost the entire genus of the Romanovs, this is the year of the beginning of the red and white terror. We will remember the dead in Yekaterinburg, Moscow, and other cities. IOPS declared the year 2018 the Year of the Memory of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. Memory is the continuation of her deeds, the deeds of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, which we will do."

Anna Gromova, the deputy chairman of the IOPS, the chairman of "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society", said that her heart is overflowing with joy that the number of followers of Elizabeth Feodorovna is growing, who by her example live in charity and compassion for people. These are all people who feel the prayers of the Holy Martyr Elizabeth.

Anna Gromova thanked the IOPS Chairman for his efforts in religious tourism and pilgrimage on the basis of the agreement signed in 2015 with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. It allowed the implementation of the national tourist project "The Imperial Route", which at the first stage will cover the places of exile and death of the Imperial Family. She noted that the winners of the awards were people who made a concrete, significant contribution to the creation of the Museum of the Imperial Family in Tobolsk, the re-creation of the historical truth about the Imperial Family and the preservation of memory.

Then Sergey Stepashin and Anna Gromova presented the statuettes and diplomas to the laureates.

Among the laureates of the Prize of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society named after Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna was Paul E. Kulikovsky, member of the IOPS.

The Prize of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna is established under the motto "Kind Heart" and is in memory of the Grand Duchess's mercy and is awarded in the nomination "Unselfish Service for Charity and Humanitarian education of the young generation".

Then a concert took place, in which the honoured artist of Russia Zinaida Sazonova , the Children's School-studio "Arabesque" (artistic director - Natalia Tomilina), the Cossack ensemble (art director - Roman Makarevich), the laureate of the International competition Oleg Popov, the winner of the All-Union competition Arthur Vishenkov, as well as Arthur Makarov, brothers Alexander and Sergei Borodin, Elena Ananieva and People's Artist of Russia Alexander Pyatkov performed.



The Krasnoyarsk bridge across Yenisei River named "Nikolaevsky" in the honour of Emperor Nicholas II

Through the efforts of the Krasnoyarsk branch of the "Two-Headed Eagle" Society and the general public of the city of Krasnoyarsk, with the full support of the mayor of Krasnoyarsk, Sergei Yeremin, the 4th bridge across the Yenisei was named "Nikolaevsky" in honour of the All-Russian Emperor Nicholas II.

Nicholas II, creator of the Trans-Siberian Railway, who made maximum efforts for the development of



Siberia and the Far East, he, while still a Tsarevich, visited the ancient Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk (he was named that way at the beginning of the 17th century), arriving on the steamboat St. Nicholas (in honour of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker), just to the place that was called by grateful residents - Nikolaevka.

In the Nikolaevka area, only a couple of hundred meters from the new 4th bridge are the remains of one of the main architectural structures not only of Krasnoyarsk, but all of Russia! It is a well-known for the whole world railway bridge across the Yenisei River built by the decision of Emperor Nicholas II. In 1900, at the World Exhibition in Paris, the model of the Krasnoyarsk bridge was presented with the Grand Prix and the gold medal "For Architectural Excellence and Excellent Technical Performance". The special jury was headed by the famous engineer, the creator of the Eiffel Tower, Gustave Eiffel!

Continuing the historical tradition, the new bridge number 4 was rightly called "Nikolaevsky", becoming the connecting link not only of the two banks of the Yenisei, but also "becoming a bridge" that connected the past with the present.

Let's hope that this positive decision will give impetus to the return of the historical name of the Northern Earth, located in the far north of the vast Krasnoyarsk Territory. Russian Columbus - Admiral Boris Vilkitsky - named the archipelago discovered by him, the Land of Emperor Nicholas II. The return of the historical name, unfairly selected for political reasons in the Soviet era, would be the restoration of historical justice, the historicity of the discovery and would strengthen, even more, Russian sovereignty over our Arctic territory

Painting of Emperor Nicholas II goes on display at the Scottish National Gallery

22 May. The Edinburgh Reporter. - A new painting has gone on display at the Scottish National Gallery today. It is on loan to the Gallery from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Regiment Trust and it shows the last Tsar of Russia in the uniform of the Royal Scots Greys.

Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, Colonel, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was joined by Brigadier Melville Stewart Jameson CBE to mark the loan of the painting to The National Galleries of Scotland.

Painted by Valentin Serov one of the greatest Russian painters of the pre-revolutionary era the Tsar, His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II Alexandrovitch, Tsar of All the Russias, wears the dress uniform as Colonel-in-Chief of Scotland's senior regiment the 2nd Dragoons (The Royal Scots Greys). He sported this uniform at Balmoral during a visit there in autumn 1896.

It was Queen Victoria who appointed him to the position which he held until his death. Now the Guards as successors to the regiment have lent it to the Gallery for public display. There is some historical significance as it is a century since the Bolsheviks executed the Imperial family.



Portrait of His Imperial Majesty Nicolai II Alexandrovich, Tsar of All the Russias, 1902 by Valentin Serov (1865-1911). Collection: The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Regimental Trust, Edinburgh Castle
Nicholas II visited Britain five times. In 1894 he stayed with Queen Victoria and then married one of the Queen's granddaughters, Princess Alix of Hesse.



Queen Victoria recognised the close relationship between the two royal households and made the Tsar a Knight of the Garter, an Honorary Admiral of the Fleet and in 1916 a British Field-Marshal.

Serov was born in St Petersburg and trained as an artist in Munich, Paris and Moscow. He was chiefly a portrait painter but also excelled at genre scenes and landscapes as well as theatrical sets.

The portrait of Nicholas II – which is the only major oil painting by the artist in any British public collection – formed part of a group of studies of members of the Imperial family depicted in military uniforms which date from the years around the turn of the century. The Tsar's uniform survives in the collection of the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg. A major and very popular exhibition of Serov's work was mounted in 2016 at the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

Christopher Baker, Director of European and Scottish Art and Portraiture at the National Galleries of Scotland, said : "This impressive portrait of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, is an important, poignant and generous loan to the National Galleries of Scotland, a century after the execution of the Imperial family. What makes the painting so arresting is its relative intimacy, the intense eye contact with the

viewer and singing colours. Painted by one the greatest of Russian artists, whose work is little known in Britain, it has strong and fascinating connections with Scottish military history."

Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, Colonel, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (left) was joined by Brigadier Melville Stewart Jameson CBE to mark the loan of the painting to The National Galleries of Scotland.

Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, Colonel, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, added: "We are tremendously proud of our Regiment's history and our association with our Royal Family right back to 1678 and Charles II. In similar vein, our connections with Russia are long-honoured, not just through Tsar Nicholas as our Colonel-in-Chief but through a number of regimental customs and routine contact with friends and families across the years. We carry an icon of Saint Nicholas with Regimental Headquarters on operations and on training and the Serov portrait has traditionally hung at the end of the Officers Mess Dining Room. It is a precious and important object for all of us."

"We are delighted the National Galleries of Scotland has accepted our Trust's offer to loan the picture and we are honoured that it will hang in close company with a host of other notable works of art. Great portraits offer an intimate view into the world of the sitter and the painter and this picture serves as a fabulous marker in the colourful and oscillating relationship between our country, Russia and our people over several centuries."

The portrait is on display at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh from today. Entry to the Gallery is free.



"Golden dream of the Empress" - opens in Gatchina dedicated to the 220th anniversary of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna

From 26 May to 23 September - the exhibition "Golden Dream of the Empress" will be in the halls of the Arsenal of the Gatchina Palace. The temporary exposition is dedicated to the 220th anniversary of the birth of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, wife of Nicholas I.

During the thirty years of the reign of Nicholas I, his wife was a model of beauty and femininity. From the picturesque portraits, lithographs, marble sculptures and colored porcelain, the sovereign looked at the subjects - a bit sad, with a barely marked smile, large gray-blue eyes and classically regular features.

She was the ideal heroine of the romantic era - a beautiful princess who survived with her family escape from the French invaders from her native Berlin, the wartime deprivation and the death of her beloved mother, and then taken away by the fabulously rich Russian Grand Duke to distant Russia, to the northern sea, where she found her happiness.

Contemporaries wrote that the life of the Russian Empress resembled a "golden dream," and she lived, not realizing "about the serious side of life, not comprehending it." Perhaps in these words was a share of truth, but it was her image that inspired poets and painters, new palaces were built for her, and luxurious apartments gave the secular side of the Nicholas reign a fabulous theatrical appearance, which is still admired today.



Alexandra Farafonova, senior researcher at GMZ "Gatchina" - "Her whole life was concentrated on home, family and in those festivities and holidays that her family and beloved husband arranged for her. Absolutely insane celebrations were arranged for her, for example, they could stop state glass factories for several days in order to prepare several thousand lamps to light the Lower Park in Peterhof. "

Dedicated to this modest Empress, the exhibition presents more than 260 exhibits: portraits, furniture, objects of decorative and applied art, costumes from the collections of St. Petersburg museums - Pavlovsk, Peterhof, the Hermitage and the Alexandrinsky Theater Museum. Among them, a special place is occupied by memorial items belonging to the Empress and her family and housed in her rooms.

At the exposition you can see several magnificent portraits of the brush of the German painter G. Kügelchen depicting the young prussian princess, her brothers and sisters (GMZ Pavlovsk and GMZ Gatchina); portrait of the Grand Duke Nicholas Pavlovich, the work of the famous Russian portraitist OA Kiprensky (GMZ "Gatchina"); items from the services that were created for the weddings of the Grand Dukes and Princess - the children of Nicholas I and Alexandra Feodorovna (HEE, GMZ "Peterhof"); a priestly vestment made from the wedding dress of Grand Duchess Alexandra Feodorovna (GE); a carriage-scooter (GMZ "Tsarskoe Selo").

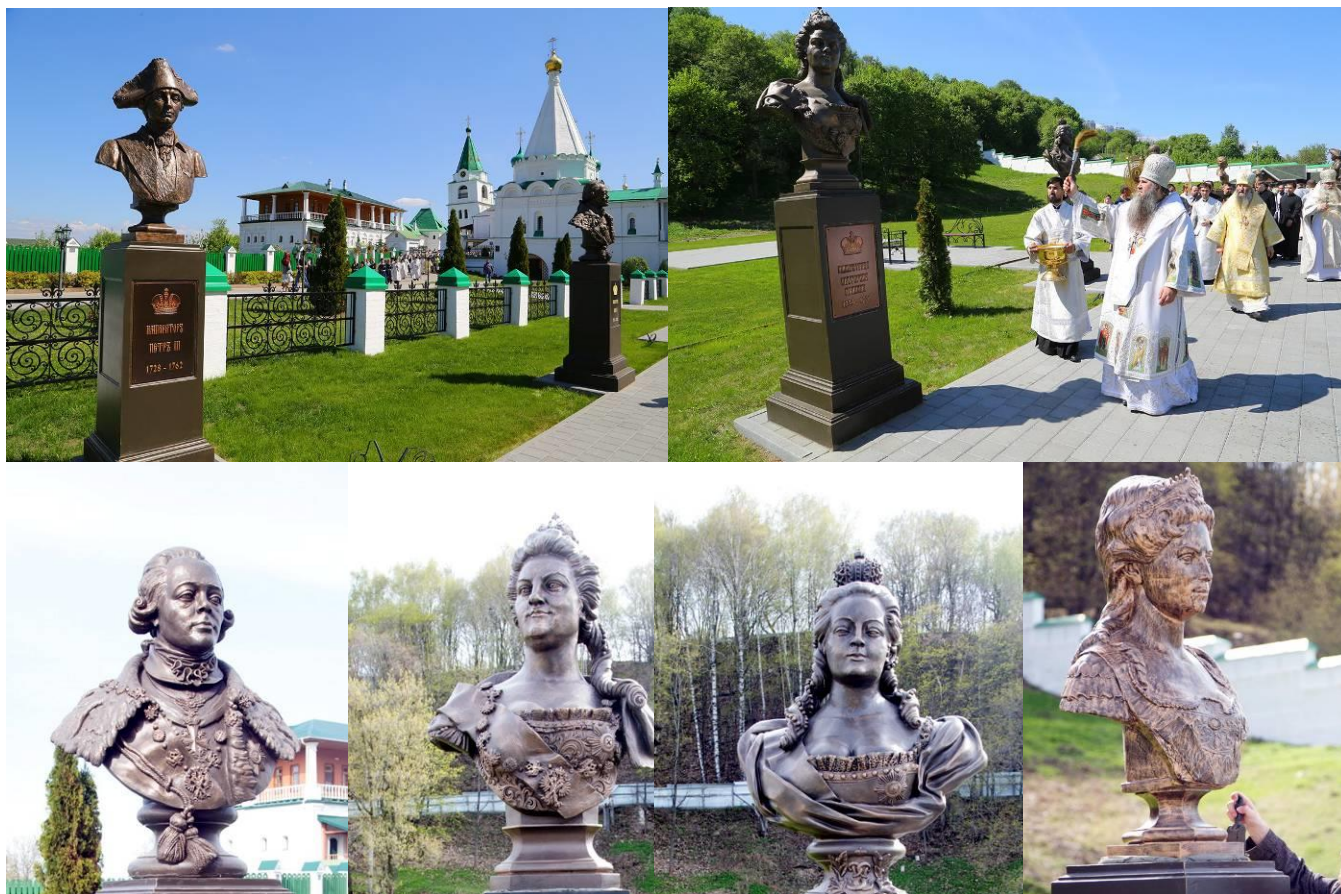
Also on display are items made in the twentieth century. Visitors will see authentic stage costumes created by A. Ya. Golovin's sketches for the performance of Meyerhold "The Masquerade" in 1917. It was in honor of the wife of Nicholas I that the theater where this performance was performed was named Alexandrinsky, and in the costumes there is often a stylized depiction of a white rose - the symbol of Alexandra Feodorovna.

Video - http://47channel.ru/video_clip/119891/

New monuments on the Romanov Avenue of Glory in the Voznesensky Pechersky monastery of Nizhny Novgorod

May 17, on the twentieth feast of the Ascension of the Lord and the patronal feast of the Nizhny Novgorod Voznesensky Pechersky Monastery, Metropolitan of Nizhny Novgorod and Arzamas Georgy led the Divine Liturgy in the Ascension Cathedral of the monastery. He was assisted by Bishop Arsenyevsky and Dalnegorsky Gury, rector of the monastery, Archimandrite Tikhon (Zatyokin), the monastery's brethren in a sacred dignity.

After the service, a procession around the church was made. Then all went to the territory of the Romanov Alley of Glory, where, in the presence of the cadets of the Nizhny Novgorod Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and banners, the head of the Nizhny Novgorod Metropolia consecrated monuments to the representatives of the Romanov Dynasty: Emperors Paul I, Peter II, Peter III, Empresses Catherine I, Elizabeth Petrovna, Catherine II, and Anna Ioannovna. The author of the monuments is Nizhny Novgorod sculptor Alexander Gorshkov.



Addressing the audience after the consecration, Metropolitan George thanked all those who worked hard to create the avenue of the House of Romanovs.

"It is very important to remember the rulers who built our homeland. This huge country was gathered by our ancestors under the leadership of the dynasties of the Rurik and the Romanov, and we must preserve it, decorate it and pass it on to future generations," the ruling bishop said.

Then, in the Ascension Cathedral, Archimandrite Tikhon thanked Archbishop George and Guria for the ascended prayers and expressed the hope that soon there will be busts of all Romanov rulers on the Romanov Alley of Glory, including the last one - the Tsar-Passion-Bearer Nicholas II, and then the Rurikovich alley will be decorated. The rector of the Pechersky monastery presented Metropolitan George with a small bust of Tsar-Peacemaker Alexander III, and Bishop Guria - bust of the first Sovereign of the Romanov family, Mikhail Feodorovich.

A monument to Nicholas II in Moscow?



18 May. "Parliamentary Newspaper" - The first deputy chairman of the Duma Committee for Public Associations and Religious Organizations, Ivan Sukharev, prepared a request to the Moscow mayor to ask for the installation of a monument to Nicholas II in the capital.

He believes that perpetuating the memory of the last Russian Emperor will restore historical justice. The parliamentarian noted that on May 18, exactly 150 years since the birth of Nicholas II. The monument is already installed in the centre of Belgrade, while in Moscow there is not even a memorial plate, he added.

Earlier, MP Vitaly Milonov said that a draft of State Duma statement had been prepared that condemns the murder of the Tsar's family by the Bolsheviks in July 1918 as an unacceptable and unjustified crime. In his opinion, one can not deny that the miscalculations in the policy of the Emperor were, however, Nicholas II canonized by the Church not for his government, but for the suffering that he suffered and through which he passed, preserving the dignity of faith.

"Left Front" and "Yabloko" opposed the installation of the monument to Nicholas II

18 May. Dailystorm - Member of the Board of the "Left Front" journalist Maxim Shevchenko called Nicholas II a criminal, and all those who advocate the perpetuation of his memory are supporters of Nazism.

"Establish monuments to those who are a symbol of shame, defeat, helplessness and the death of Russia," the journalist told. "Nicholas II is a criminal who dragged Russia into several wars and ruined the empire."

According to him, many collaborators from the USSR, as well as some representatives of white emigration during the Second World War, "went with portraits of Nicholas II," therefore "those who today raise the figure of the Tsar indirectly rehabilitate those who during the war cooperated with the Nazis."

Maybe in St. Petersburg instead?

May 18 - RIA Novosti - A monument to Emperor Nicholas II could appear in St. Petersburg instead of Moscow, believes the Moscow City Duma deputy, the head of the Commission on Culture and Mass Communications, Yevgeny Gerasimov.

Earlier in the media there was information that the first deputy chairman of the Duma Committee for Public Associations and Religious Organizations, Ivan Sukharev, proposed to install a monument to Nicholas II in one of the streets of Moscow.

"I do not see any significant place in Moscow for this monument, from my point of view, it might be possible to establish it if St. Petersburgers want it in St. Petersburg." Still, its history was forged, in Moscow, I do not see, let someone, perhaps, call, where possible, but I do not see a link to Moscow, "Gerasimov told RIA Novosti on Friday.

He noted that the Moscow City Duma had not yet applied for the installation of the monument to Nicholas II in the capital.

At the same time, told to RIA Novosti the chairman of the Moscow Commission on monumental art Igor Voskresensky, that the commission such an application also did not receive. He noted that if it does, it will be considered in accordance with the law.

A monument will appear in the village of Bilimbay near Pervouralsk

May 18. Federal Press - The bust of Emperor Nicholas II will appear in the Pervouralsk settlement of Bilimbay, the chairman of the Sverdlovsk branch of the Union of Airborne Troops Eugene Teterin said today. The statement was made at the public forum "Tsar" in Yekaterinburg, which was organized by the Ekaterinburg Diocese. Teterin recalled that it was during the time of Nicholas II that Bilimbay visited the chemist Dmitry Mendeleev, and during the war in the closed Troitsk temple a BI-1 missile aircraft was developed.+

The public clarified that on the pedestal of the bust it will be possible to read the quote from the manifesto on the abdication of Nicholas II: "In the name of our beloved homeland, we call upon all the faithful sons of the Fatherland to fulfil their sacred duty to him."

Pulkovo airport in St. Petersburg proposed to be renamed in honour of Alexander III

11 May. RIA. - State Duma deputy Vitaly Milonov suggested to St. Petersburg Governor Georgy Poltavchenko to give the international airport Pulkovo the name of Emperor Alexander III, and also to install the monument to the Emperor, who is now in the courtyard of the Marble Palace.

"It would be advisable to assign to the Pulkovo International Airport the name of Emperor Alexander III, who was the patron of the development of the prototypes of the first aircraft, and in this connection it would be correct to establish the legendary monument to the Emperor who now stands in the courtyard of the Marble Palace from the time of the 1917 revolution of the square in front of the airport terminal, and thereby close the discussion about a new place for this great monument," Milonov wrote in a letter to the governor of St. Petersburg. The deputy also sent a copy of the letter to the Ministry of Transport.



The politician recalled that in the northern capital at the end of the century before last, the world aviation was born. "Designer Mozhaisky in the imperial capital for the first time designed the world's first prototype of a modern aircraft that managed to break away from the earth with a man on board. This great events and inventions occurred during the reign of Emperor Alexander III when our state was on a patriotic and technological rise, argues the deputy.

Milonov also stressed that all over the world, airports are "ceremonial and solemn gates to cities and countries." "Each airport of a major city, capital or region is decorated and designed to give guests a pleasant impression of being in the first minutes." An informal or dedicated airport name is equally important," he said.

As an example, the parliamentarian brought the main airport in Rome, which bears the name of the great artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci, the airport in Delhi, which bears the name of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the capital airport of Serbia named after the outstanding inventor Nikola Tesla.

"This practice of denominations has an important ideological component - it demonstrates the pride of the people with their outstanding compatriots and historical figures before foreign guests. In our country this tradition is also gaining popularity, but so far many places and transport hubs have only their own names without any dedications," - remarked Milonov.

State Duma deputies prepared a statement on the murder of Nicholas II and his family

In it, what happened almost a hundred years ago is called an unacceptable and unjustifiable atrocity

May 18, 2018 marks 150 years since the birth of Emperor Nicholas II, and on July 17 this year - 100 years since his murder in Yekaterinburg. At a roundtable in the Parliamentary Gazette, parliamentarians, jurists, political scientists and representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church discussed how to preserve the grateful memory of the monarchy in modern Russia.



The Imperial Family posed no danger to the Soviet authorities

One of the deeds of the Emperor is the manifesto on the establishment of the State Duma "as a legislative establishment, to which preliminary development and discussion of legislative proposals and consideration of the mural of state revenues and expenditures are provided." At the same time, on August 6 (19), 1905, a law was passed on the State Duma and a provision on elections to it.

As State Duma deputy Vitaly Milonov said, a draft statement of the State Duma was prepared in the lower house, which condemns the murder of the Tsar's family by the Bolsheviks in July 1918 as an unacceptable and unjustifiable crime. In his opinion, one can not deny that the miscalculations in the policy of the Emperor were, however, canonized by Nicholas II by the Church not for the government, but for the suffering that he suffered and through which he passed, preserving the dignity of faith. "We have no right to abandon the past, to strip out of our history huge segments due to the fact that someone does not like the principles of this or that ruler. We did not abandon the Soviet legacy, no matter what mistakes the authorities made then. This is our history, our mistakes and, recognizing them, we say that we do not want to repeat them," Vitaly Milonov is convinced.



The deputy said that the shooting of the family is "a fact of unjustified violence, when people are being destroyed to please the political situation." According to him, Tsar Nicholas and his family did not pose any danger to the Soviet power. "I think it was a demonstrative political action, unjustified in its cruelty. But Russia is not built on blood, and today must show - we have the courage, strength,

greatness to admit our own mistakes. Not for crucifying yourself, but for ascertaining a sober assessment of your own history," Vitaly Milonov believes.

The legislator told the "Parliamentary Newspaper" that the draft statement of the State Duma will be submitted to them in the very near future for discussion in the "United Russia" faction. "I think we can take it closer to July 17, that is, to the date of the death of the Imperial Family," said Vitaly Milonov.

How to avoid "dense treasure"

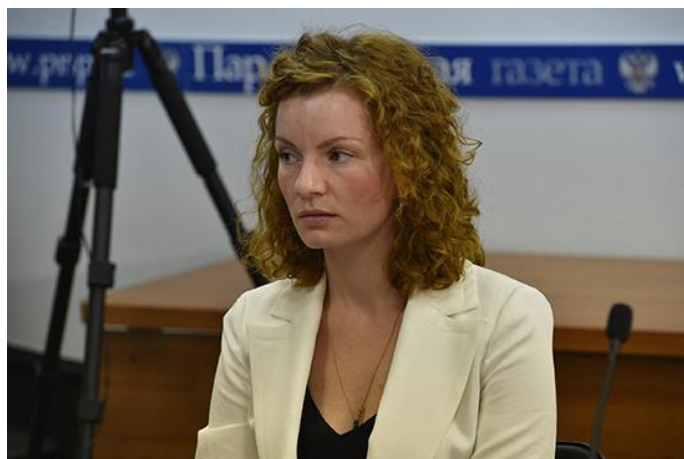
Political scientist Leonid Polyakov believes that the appearance of the draft of such a statement in the parliament is symbolic - it was the State Duma in its time that effectively deprived the Tsar of power, while violating the law of the Russian Empire. "This should be remembered, and do not be afraid of it. In his inaugural speech, Vladimir Putin said that one should beware of "dense treasure". And so that conversations about the monarchy do not seem so "keeping", one needs actualization of the heritage of the Russian monarchy. It should be looked at as a source of unshakable values, on which the Russian civilization continues to be built today," the expert believes.



Among these values is the very institution of the monarchy, which succeeded in gathering together different lands. Experts note that Russia is unique in that it managed to save all the peoples and nationalities living on it to this day. No one was lost - unlike the stories of other empires, in which whole nations were ruined. And the factor of saving peoples, according to a number of political scientists, must be attributed to the fact that for a long time we had a monarchical form of government in our country," the political scientist said.

Experts have long documented attempts to destroy the institution of the family as such - through planting pseudo-values, degrading the image of the mother in social networks, the media, by imposing suicidal tendencies on children and so on. The results of this work, which has been conducted for the last quarter of a century in our country, include the fact that 70 percent of pregnant women make abortions, and three quarters of marriages in Russia disintegrate during the first four years of married life. Those relations that reigned within the Imperial Family and which are described in the correspondence of Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna, as well as in the memoirs of their contemporaries, can become a guide for today's Russians.

That's why TV presenter Natalya Moskvitina believes that while shooting a monarch in the Ipatiev House, they "shot at the family". "We are shy about our holy past, shy of what we should be proud of - it directly relates to the life and way of the Royal Family. We need to talk about this holy past - this will strengthen Russian families, without which the country, as the heads of state and Patriarch Kirill repeatedly said, can not have a prosperous future," she said.



Monarchy still need to earn

The manager of the affairs of the Kazakh metropolitanate, Bishop Gennady of Kaskelen (Gogol) recalled that on May 15 the memory of the first Russian martyrs - Princes Boris and Gleb - is celebrated. "They were canonized for the patient suffering of Christians. From them the history of the holy rulers of Russia began, and on Nicholas II and

his family this story seemed to be looped," the Bishop explained. "Today, very few people understand that the very life of Nicholas II is an attempt to swim against the current in order to preserve the beautiful in faithfulness to Orthodox values."

In his opinion, there is no other person who would be subjected to such mockery and mockery in the Soviet times as Nicholas II. And in modern Russia, a colossal work was carried out to clear up the rubble of historical manipulations around the Royal Family. "When the question of canonization arose for the first time, most people in the ROC were against it - Soviet propaganda was so strong. But the commission on canonization was created after all. And it was amazing to see how the layer of the Emperor's personality was removed layer by layer. It's like in restoration - the memory of the Emperor was updated, which miraculously happens with some icons in Orthodox churches. And today we must leave the dispute about which power is better - monarchy, democracy or something else. This is a dispute torn from life. The main thing, that through the rulers God's providence for people was accomplished. Therefore, the Orthodox monarchy can be perceived only as a divine gift, it must be earned. And in no case it should not be revived artificially in Russia - it will be like a parody or a fake," the bishop believes.



Economic breakthrough with the support of their traditions is possible

State Duma today pays attention - the reforms of Nicholas II, which led to the economic breakthrough in Russia in the first years of the twentieth century, were the answer to new challenges. And today our country also faces such challenges, which require a comprehensive breakthrough in almost all key areas. In this regard, State Duma deputy Viktor Zubarev noted that the planned goals, among which the expansion of the space of freedom and well-being of families, are impossible, until in each Russian family they feel positive changes: "To do this, it is necessary to preserve political unity in Russia and, on the basis of such stability, to achieve president ambitious goals and objectives. "



Experts believe that one of the main "pearls" of the experience that Nicholas II left us is the successful modernization of the country, which was first realized with the support of his own tradition. The head of the expert centre of the World Russian People's Council Alexander Rudakov emphasized that it was under Nicholas II that general education for children appeared, aviation construction was created, and a plan for the electrification of Russia was developed, which the Bolsheviks attributed to themselves. "The realization that the Emperor remains a symbol of an effectively implemented modernization project based on tradition and the implementation of a new civilizational model with self-reliance will allow us not to argue about his personality, but to thankfully recall his rule," the expert stated.

The futility and even the danger of historical disputes in our country was spoken by counselor of the State Duma Speaker Vladimir Pligin - he said that they sometimes lead to dramatic events, to the rupture of the unity of the peoples of Russia. Moreover, the issues of unity, the expert noted, are unfortunately not solved in the country today. The expert noted the great role played by the agreement

between the ROC and ROCOR in this field in 2008, which showed an example of the unification (- it is symbolic that it was signed on the eve of the birthday of Nicholas II on May 17. - Ed.)

At the same time, Vladimir Pligin is sure that the story of Tsar Nicholas II "we plunge into dark colors". But we do not see that the history of France or England is more dramatic and dark. He recalled that at the end of the 18th century France lost a third of the population (!) during the revolution.



A noteworthy fact - the French studies on Russia, published in May, produce impressive figures. In 1902 the population of Russia - 139 million people, and already in 1912 - 171 million people! This is the fastest rate of population growth in Europe. The study points out that "if such trends continue, then the population in 1948 will exceed the number of the five great European powers ... Undoubtedly, if the trends continue, Russia will be the leading world power." Note that the assessment was made abroad.

It is worth mentioning that the honesty and decency of Nicholas II is not disputed in the years of his reign, even by foreign opponents. At the same time, the dramatic nature of the individual is in decision-making. Vladimir Pligin recalled the work of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in which the writer pondered the February revolution and raised the question of the limits of the state's rigidity in crisis conditions. Remembering about that period, he writes: "Not a single task was achieved, as it were a national faint. The Russian spirit did not have the strength to test. " "It is in this tragedy of the personality of Nicholas II," - says Vladimir Pligin.

First ever taken picture of Grigori Rasputin unearthed in Siberia

19 May. Mirror - The picture of the bearded mystic was found in a private collection in the country's coldest region, Yakutia. Detailed analysis of the photograph - taken when he lived in Siberia, before he joined the court of the last Tsar Nicholas II - shows it to be the notorious holy man, say experts.

Collector Alexey Ivanov, a culture expert, said: "The picture was taken between 1880-1900. "This is the earliest period of the young priest's life." He believes it is the first picture ever taken of Rasputin, who hailed from a peasant family in the Siberian village of Pokrovskoye, in Tyumen region, more than 3,000 kilometres west of Yakutsk, he said.



Once in St Petersburg he became a society figure and captivated the royals, especially Tsarina Alexandra, who viewed him as a healer, and hoped he could save Crown Prince Alexei, her son, who suffered from haemophilia.

Rasputin's critics saw him as a charlatan who discredited the Russian Royals and triggered their downfall leading to the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917.

He was assassinated by a group of noblemen who were concerned at the grip he held over the Tsarina. Red marks on the pictures highlight where experts compared his mouth, nose, eyes and parting to prove the picture was a young Rasputin.

The historic picture was put on temporary display at the Yaroslavsky Museum in Yakutsk.

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



The new stage of the revival of the Lyons Hall

May 25 at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum an agreement was signed between PJSC Gazprom, the foundation ENGIE (France) and the museum-reserve "Tsarskoe Selo" about participating in the reconstruction of the Lyons hall of the Catherine Palace. On the eve of this event the museum presented the first restored chairs. Silk for them was made by the Lyons manufactory Prella, the work was done by Russian restorers.

The press-show was attended by the director of GMZ "Tsarskoye Selo" Olga Taratynova, the head of the department of PJSC "Gazprom" Alexander Besspalov, the head of the representative office of ENGIE in Russia Albert Grigoryan, the director of the Tsarskoye Selo amber workshop Boris Igdalov. Lyons hall - one of the most perfect interiors of the architect Charles Cameron - was among the personal apartments of Catherine II in the Great Tsarskoselsky (Catherine's) palace. This masterpiece was created in 1781-1783 and was named after the walls were made with silk, made in Lyon. The interior was part of the grand suite of the palace, which dictated the special luxury of its decoration. Rare for the refinement effect was due to a combination of "gold" silk with a blue lapis lazuli decor. On the lapis lazuli finish, the masters used more than 92 poods of stone, in the decoration of the doors and parquet used "multicolored overseas 12 varieties of trees" and mother of pearl.



Since the time of Catherine II, silk wallpapers have been repeatedly replaced. In the middle of the XIX century the Lyons hall became a parlor on the half of Maria Alexandrovna, the wife of Alexander II. By her will, the architect Ippolit Monigetti made a radical change in the design of the room: the fabric began to cover the walls completely, its color changed - instead of yellow, a silk with flower garlands appeared. Also, the interior was decorated with new items of furniture - a set of furniture and lighting fixtures from Baikal and Badakhshan lapis lazuli with a gilded bronze decor. In 1866, the walls were again covered with yellow silk, now it was a fabric of the color "golden bud", it tightened the walls from the panels to the top edge of the eaves, was used in furniture upholstery and in curtains. In this form, the Lyons hall, which was painted in 1878 by Luigi Premazzi, lasted until 1941.

Decoration of the magnificent interior was destroyed during the Great Patriotic War. Parquet, stolen from the Lyons hall by the fascists, was discovered in Berlin and in 1947 returned to Tsarskoe Selo.

Only after decades, in 2005, it was possible to make the first step to the revival of the interior - to restore the three-dimensional solution of the Lyons hall. The project of its restoration was prepared in 1983 by the then chief architect of the museum Alexander Kedrinsky (1917-2003); the project was adjusted in 2006-2007.

Restoring the entire decor of the Lyons hall is an extremely expensive and time-consuming task, therefore the work is carried out in stages. At the moment, with the support of patrons, the restoration of the lapis lazuli portals that surround the three doors of the hall is coming to the end.



In 2018, thanks to the financial support of PJSC Gazprom and the Foundation ENGIE (France), a new big stage of work has begun. The company "Gazprom" allocated funds for the reconstruction of the plafond (including the development of sketches and cartons for picturesque insertions, the creation of paintings and stucco decorations with gilding on the ceiling and cornice) and mosaic panels of lapis lazuli with a gilded bronze decor, as well as the manufacture and installation of upholstery and curtains from Lyons silk, trimmings (textile products intended for decoration) and agrimants (braids, which are covered with furniture upholstery, curtains) on historical patterns.

The funds for silk production were allocated by the corporate foundation ENGIE. Fortunately, iconographic materials (palace records, photographs, autochromes, watercolors, silk samples) were preserved in the museum, and in Lion there were archives of the weaving manufactory "Lamy et Giraud", which in the 1860s performed the order of the Russian Imperial Court. In the collection of the successor of this enterprise - the Lyons manufactory of Prelle - books of orders of the XIX century have been preserved. It was a historically justified decision to entrust the restoration of the silk decoration of the Lyons hall to the French masters of the manufactory of Prelle. In accordance with the museum's project of recreating the upholstery of walls, furniture and curtains, it is necessary to make 320 meters of fabric "golden bud" (Lampas bouton d'or Louis XVI) with a width of 162 cm.

In April 2018, the first 12 meters of the "golden" silk were ready and went to Russia for the upholstery of three armchairs. The next stage is the manufacture of silk for walls and curtains. Completely work envisaged by the agreement is planned to be completed in 2019.



The Armor of Grand Duke Alexander Nicholaevich

May 28, in the "Arsenal" pavilion in the Alexander Park the exhibition "Tsarskoselskaya carousel" was opened. The armor of Grand Duke Alexander Nicholaevich from the collection of the State Hermitage. In the year of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Russian Emperor Alexander II, Arsenal's visitors will be able to see the original armor of the 16th century, in which Alexander Nicholaevich, being the heir, took part in the famous Tsarskoye Selo carousel. The armor of Alexander Nicholaevich is a real work of art of the first half of the 16th century. This armor, obtained from the Vienna Arsenal in the 1830s, was previously in the collection of Joachim

Murat. Like the armor of Emperor Nicholas I, Alexander's armor belongs to the group of re-armored armor. This style, which became fashionable at the beginning of the sixteenth century, especially in the cities of Southern Germany (Nuremberg and Augsburg), is inextricably linked with the name of the German Emperor Maximilian I. His reign was the highest point in the development of the art of making knightly armor, the heyday of tournaments and court culture. It is no accident that Emperor Knight Nicholas I chose for himself and his son precisely the corrugated armor of the "last knight of Europe" Maximilian I.



On the breastplate of armor is a brand in the form of a heraldic shield with a unicorn depicted on it. Nuremberg control mark is on the pinnacle. The armor can be dated by the time around 1520 and represents the height of the evolution of German medieval defensive weapons. Apparently, it was created for the representative of the highest European nobility.

Carousel was a bright colorful spectacle, which became widespread in European courts. It was a horse competition, requiring participants to be masters of the art of riding - the riders had to perform complex figures and rebuilding. The carousels quickly became a favorite entertainment of the highest European nobility. They were direct heirs of medieval knight tournaments and often followed their aesthetics and spirit.

Even under Catherine II, the fashion for knightly carousels came from Western Europe to Russia. During the reign of Nicholas I, the father of Alexander II, this noble tradition was continued and strengthened. The Emperor-Knight, the collector of ancient armor and weapons, found it necessary to organize several such



roundabouts. The main one took place on May 24, 1842 in Tsarskoe Selo, on the site in front of the Alexander Palace. Famous French artist Horace Vernet (1789-1863) captured the Tsarskoye Selo carousel and its crowned participants in the painting (represented in the Arsenal pavilion). Among them is the Grand Duke, heir to the throne, Alexander Nicholaevich - the future Alexander II. Knight-participants - genuine armor from the imperial collection, which was kept until 1886 in the Tsarskoye Selo Arsenal. They are known for the catalog of Florin Gilles, who was in charge of Arsenal; in the present armor as well as the whole collection are in the collection of the State Hermitage. The exhibition of one exhibit in the pavilion "Arsenal" will last until the end of September. Video - <https://mir24.tv/news/16307258/v-sankt-peterburge-vystavili-dosphehi-aleksandra-ii>



Romanov buzz



The pedestrian procession Tobolsk-Alapaevsk-Yekaterinburg, 700 kilometers long, will take place from June 2 to July 17, 2018 in memory of the 100th anniversary of the tragic death of the Holy Royal Family.

The procession will be held with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill with the active participation of the Tobolsk, Kamensk and Ekaterinburg dioceses, the press service of the Synodal Department for the Church's relations with society and the media reports.

Orthodox pilgrims from the Crimea, Belarus, Siberia, the Urals, Pskov, central regions and other regions of Russia will take part in the procession.

The procession will begin on June 2 with the exit from the Tobolsk Kremlin at 11:00 after the Liturgy and a prayer service. Arrival in Yekaterinburg is scheduled for the morning of July 14.

On the night of July 16-17, traditional worship and the royal procession will be held in Yekaterinburg.



An exhibition dedicated to Nicholas II in Tallinn. Anyone can now to learn a little more about the family of Nicholas II and his travels to Estonia. In the Tallinn Russian Museum an exhibition opened, which presents unique photographs of the visit of the last Russian Emperor to Estonia. A significant role in these trips was played by the personal yacht of Nicholas - "Standart".

Yacht "Standart" had a special meaning for Emperor Nicholas II. It was his second home, so most of the important personal events and meetings took place on board of this yacht. And that's why the

pictures that were taken on the "Standart", little known to the general public and are related to the personal life of the Royal Family.

"Yacht" Standart "was not easy favorite Tsar's yacht, it embodied all the highest achievements of domestic engineering thought. There were a number of shortcomings, which were later noted by historians, but in general it was incredibly equipped. It was laid in Denmark by the highest order of Alexander III, father of Nicholas II," - said the general director of ROSPHOTO Zakhar Kolovsky. The exposition includes materials from Estonian museums and archives, as well as Tallinn newspapers covering the visits of Nicholas II to Reval, which he made quite often.

"The exhibition was collected by our employees of ROSPHOTO, they collected it in the naval historical archive, something was found in the Russian archive of film and photo documents, and when we brought the exhibition to Tallinn, our colleagues found a lot of wonderful material, - added Kolovsky. The fate of the yacht "Standart" was just as sad as the fate of Imperial Russia. After the death of Nicholas II, it was used even as a target for military exercises.

"In 1917, it became the revolutionary center of the sailors of the Baltic Fleet, it was then a barrier for mines, then it was used as a tool that tried the most advanced weapons." Its days ended here in Tallinn already in Soviet times, in the sixties it was cut into scrap metal," explained the head of the Tallinn Russian Museum Maria Smorzhevsky-Smirnova.

In addition to photographs of the Imperial Family and guests, whom Nicholas II invited on board of the yacht, the exhibition also shows the Tsar's private things, which he presented to one of the sailors.

"From the collections of the Estonian Maritime Museum there are wonderful silver pocket watches that were donated by Nicholas II to one of the sailors who was Estonian."

Many Estonian sailors served on "Standart". The engraved inscription, as well as the watch itself, can be seen in detail, - Maria Smorzhevsky-Smirnova told.

The exhibition is timed to the 100th anniversary of the execution of the Imperial Family and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II.

The exhibition will be opened until 30 June.

Video - <https://rus.err.ee/828814/v-tallinne-otkrylas-vystavka-posvjawennaja-nikolaju-ii>



A unique project "My love, my soul - Russia" about the Imperial Family was presented in Tyumen. The new creative project dedicated to the Romanovs was presented at the Museum Complex named after Slovtsov. Its authors were from the studio of spiritual culture "The Ark", which is directed by the musician and teacher Lilia Artemieva. Children and youth creative association works in the rare genre of literary and musical composition for today.

The studio timed the production for the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family. In the hour and a half of the historical play My Love, My Soul - Russia, Tyumen schoolchildren tried to tell the audience about true love to each other, to children, to faith and the Fatherland, on the examples of the destinies of the Grand Dukes and the Imperial Family.



St. Petersburg is a city of palaces and mansions. Peter's favorite child, the capital of the Russian Empire - the best architects worked here. Both domestic and Western. The splendour of many buildings is preserved. But there are those that are destroyed right before our eyes.

Now you can go to the Brusnitsyn mansion only from the black entrance. But without a flashlight you can not go. To get to the front entrance with stucco and bas-reliefs, it is necessary to pass through the suite of rooms. In Soviet times, this beauty in the style of the French Renaissance was hidden. From

the leaks of the roof suffered a delicate stucco molding on the ceiling. But by and large, the mansion was lucky.

"The hand of the restorer in the XX century did not work here at all. This is both bad and good at the same time. That is, the authenticity of the building has remained very good," said Victor Voronin, head of the Department of State Accounting of Cultural Heritage Objects of the KGIOP.

In the house of Brusnitsyn there is not even a hint of merchant style, although there is no one style here - eclecticism. Architect Alexander Kovsharov foresaw everything: from the winter garden in the dining room to the eastern office. The Ballroom of the White Hall, a la Louis XIV, its elegance does pretend to a high style. According to legend, there was a mirror of Dracula, bringing misfortune to everyone who looked at him. The hosts apparently did not fear mystics, they were so confident in the invulnerability of their empire.

"The mansion was the core of the huge holdings of the Brusnitsyn family, which also included a plant and the almshouse built for factory workers, and the houses that the merchants built for their employees," Voronin added.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/251025/



On May 19th, the 4th annual Moscow-city festival "Charity Day Belyi Tsvetok" (White Flower)" in the VDNH exhibition facilities was held. Funds raised within the holiday will be granted to Elizabeth kindergarten for kids with cerebral palsy (VBC). It is the project of Martha and Mary convent established by Elizabeth Fedorovna in 1909. In general, there are many projects initiated by this monastery, such as Child care facilities for children, for children with Down Syndrome, for people in difficult circumstance and many others.

БЕЛЫЙ ЦВЕТОК
1911 2018
Радость благих дел

**СБОР СРЕДСТВ
В ПОЛЬЗУ РАЗВИВАЮЩЕГО ЦЕНТРА
ДЛЯ ДЕТЕЙ С ДЦП
«ЕЛИЗАВЕТИНСКИЙ САД»**

Организаторы:

«19 МАЯ 2018г.»
МОСКВА, ВДНХ, ПАРК «ОСТАНКИНО» - ВОЗЛЕ САДОВОГО ПРУДА

150-летие со дня рождения Императора Николая II
Дела благотворительности и милосердия

БЕЛЫЙ ЦВЕТОК
1911 2018

Мозаики на начало доброго дела (храм Св. Живоначальной Троицы в Останкино)	10:30
Царский детский крестный ход от храма до Белой Ротонды парка Останкино	11:00
Торжественное открытие	12:00
Работа благотворительной ярмарки, выступление творческих коллективов, мастер-классы, театрализованное представление	12:30 18:00
Праздничный концерт	18:00 20:00

www.fondsvv.ru • www.belyictvetok.ru



The Imperial Travel Palace is one of the architectural pearls of Tver. Built for Catherine II, it became a permanent residence for the daughter of Paul I - Grand Duchess Catherine Pavlovna. These days it celebrates the 230th anniversary of her birth.

"Tver Princess" - the so-called daughter of Paul I and sister of Alexander I. Catherina Pavlovna became the first mistress in the Imperial country residence in Tver, which was built by Catherine the Great. Among the contenders for the hand of the Grand Duchess were the European Princes and even Napoleon. However, Catherina Pavlovna refused the French Emperor and gave preference to her cousin - Prince George of Oldenburg, with whom she lived in a happy marriage for 3,5 years here in the Tver Imperial Palace.

Before the Oldenburg couple entered the palace in April 1809, Carl Rossi on behalf of Alexander I rebuilt it.

"Especially he cared about the personal chambers of Catherina Pavlovna. It was his beloved sister, and they were spiritually close," said Vladimir Biberin, head of the scientific and exposition department of the Tver Regional Picture Gallery.

The interior of the Blue Room is partially preserved. Here Catherina Pavlovna received guests. In this purple cabinet - worked. She was fond of physics, economics, history. Lessons of painting took from the famous Orest Kiprensky. In 1811, artist spent several months in Tver, painted portraits of his pupil and her husband.

"Now these portraits are separated. Portrait of Catherine Pavlovna - in the Russian Museum, and the Prince portrait is in the museum-reserve "Tsarskoe Selo", - says Biberin.

When the war with Napoleon began, Catherina Pavlovna together with her husband gathers a militia in Yaroslavl, a Jaeger battalion, opens hospitals. Visiting one of them, Georg Oldenburg caught typhus and soon died in the arms of a loving wife. According to legend, it was in her purple cabinet. The Grand Duchess was only 24 when she was left alone with two young children.

"Catherina Pavlovna was in such a grief. She could not imagine how she would live without this person," says Tatyana Platonova, head of the Museum and Educational Service of the Tver Regional Picture Gallery.

The new page of the life of the Grand Duchess opened in a small German kingdom. In 1816, she married Wilhelm of Württemberg. Having reached the age of 30, she caught a cold and died. Above her grave was built an Orthodox church. Tver retained the memory of this talented woman educator. In the Imperial Palace, the interior of the beginning of the XIX century was restored. It is planned to attach a ramp, which led from the garden to her office on the second floor.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/250966/



The Russian national TV channel "Kultura", on May 18th, made a reprise broadcast of the documentary "More than love", about Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. The film is a kind of adaptation of the correspondence of the bride and groom, the Emperor and the Empress, as well as the memory of witnesses of their life and death.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/20883/episode_id/421877/



In Kirov there will be a copy of the monument to the Royal Martyrs installed on the Cathedral Square of the Holy Trinity Seraphim-Diveevsky Monastery.

Vyatka diocese proposed to install the monument in connection with the 100th anniversary of the death of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family members. The monument on the city embankment was approved by the permanent commission of the Kirov City Duma on local self-government, regulations and deputy ethics .

"A monument to the Imperial Family in the historic part of the city will fill this place with a deep meaning. A careful attitude to our history will only serve the benefit of our society. Near the river there is also the Church of Theodore Icon of the Mother of God. This icon is the patroness of the Imperial Family," - noted Metropolitan Viatka and Slobodskaya Mark.

The monument to the Imperial Family will be made according to the model of the sculpture installed in the Diveevsky Monastery - the author of the project has already agreed to this. All expenses for manufacturing and installation of the monument will be incurred by the Vyatka diocese.

The final decision will be taken on May 30 at a meeting of the Kirov City Duma. If approved, the diocese is ready to begin mounting the monument on June 13.

The family of Nicholas II was in Kirov only once - on August 2, 1917, when it was sent to the Siberian exile.

Monument to the Holy Martyr Saint Emperor Nicholas and his August family was installed in the Holy Trinity Seraphim-Diveevsky Monastery in 2017.



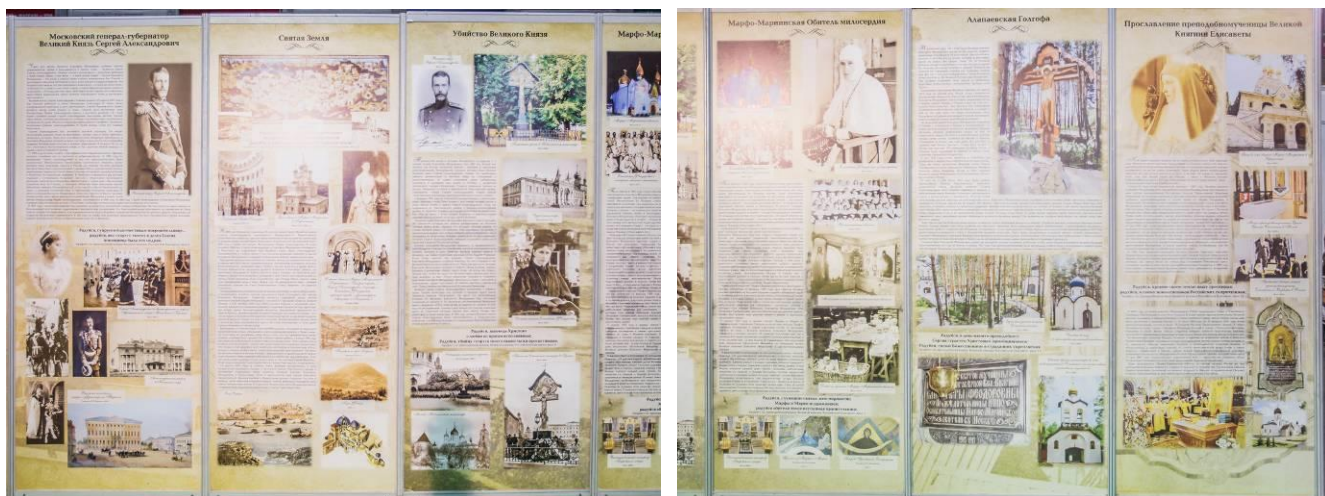
From May 24 to 29, the Orthodox exhibition-forum "From Repentance to Resurrection of Russia" was held in the Ice Palace "Izhstal". It was timed to the Day of Slavic writing and culture, as well as the

100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Royal Passion-Bearers: Emperor Nicholas II and his family members.

The grand opening of the exhibition began with a prayer service, which was performed by the Metropolitan of Izhevsk and Udmurtia Victorin. Archbishop Roman Voskresensky, dean of the Izhevsk diocesan administration, deacon Ilya Medvedev, secretary of the diocesan diocesan administration, and Anna Viktorovna Voskresenskikh, chairman of the Diocesan Commission for Family Affairs, Protection of Motherhood and Childhood participated in the solemn prayer.

After the moleben the archpastor blessed the organizers and participants of the exhibition-forum.

A cultural and educational program was presented: conversations with priests, viewing of orthodox films, performances of creative groups. An unique exposition was brought from the monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in the Ganina Yama "Historical turning point of the epochs of 1918: the way to Calvary and the glorification of the Royal Passion-Bearers" dedicated to the death of Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Visitors could see the "execution room" in the basement of the Ipatiev House, recreated from the surviving photographs. The exposition also includes a copy of the mosquito cross, the greatest shrine, once belonging to the Romanov family.



In the museum-estate "Arkhangelskoe" one of the main halls of the Grand Palace - Cupid Room is being prepared for opening. This will be another step towards the completion of the long-term restoration of Prince Yusupov estate.

More than thirteen objects of "Arkhangelskoe" are now in the restoration. All the work will take about a year. And by May 2019, it will again take the form of "Russian Versailles" - such as it was under Prince Yusupov. In the forests there are not only the Grand Palace, but also the burial vault, the church of Michael the Archangel, the Gonzaga Theater. Many of them were unavailable for visitors for decades. In 1985, the "Arkhangelskoe" began restoration, and it dragged on for a long time. The exhibition is opened gradually. This time the Cupid Room of the Grand Palace.

"Cupid Room ... There were stories written on love themes Cupid and Psyche. The central place in the hall was occupied by the sculpture Canova "Psyche", which is now stored in the Hermitage," - said the deputy director of the estate museum Arkhangelskoye Lyudmila Grineva.

For the aristocrat and the esthete of Prince Nikolai Yusupov "Arkhangelskoe" was not only a summer parade residence. It was also a museum with a magnificent collection, where Prince received Emperors. In 1816, Yusupov was waiting for the arrival of Alexander I. At the same time they were



decorating the Cupid Room. Its dominant is the canvas of Doyen. The 24-meter picture is still kept in the tomb separate from the frame. It will take several days to combine them. The canvas in good condition, only glued the corners to the duplicating canvas with an iron at a five-meter height, says the restorer.

"A small picture is ironed with a small iron, we have an assortment of irons - from small to forty kilograms, but once the picture is 25 m, then the iron is 4, 5 kg," said restorer of easel oil painting of the 1st category of the museum estate "Arkhangelskoe" Vyacheslav Ponkratov.

15 paintings, sculptures and gilded carved sets of 24 items will be returned to Cupid Room. It was manufactured in St. Petersburg and transported to the Arkhangelskoye in 1816. Upholstery wore and often changed. During the Soviet era, the set was plentiful with a crimson cloth. And in the 80-ies of the last century a piece of cloth of the XIX century was found in one of the chairs.

"Only one of the upholstery was preserved, and according to its model the copies were ordered, the factory that makes old fabrics, they have hand looms, and they painted with natural dyes," said restorer Irina Merkulova.

Dmitry Sinelnikov is engaged in the restoration of gilded carvings. The work is painstaking, long and according to strict scientific rules. "The furniture in the restoration is not covered with gilding, it is imitated with watercolors, they will be whole, but there will be watercolor tones in the places where the soil is now, if it were gilded, it would be considered a novelty. But this is a violation of the restoration practice", - commented the artist-restorer Dmitry Sinelnikov.

In two weeks, visitors will be able to see one of the last halls of the Great Palace in such a way that Alexander I saw it. Only the history of the objects of the Palace became richer.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/254806/



In St. Petersburg, after the restoration, the Summer Palace of Peter the Great was opened. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky and the director of the Russian Museum Vladimir Gusev.

Work in the summer residence of the Imperial Family was conducted since 2014. During this time, the stone part of the palace was partially renovated, the floors were reinforced, the metal roofing was replaced with the historical one - the copper one. On one of the Russian factories on a found pattern was recreated wallpaper. In addition, the Summer Palace changed color and became cream. Experts believe that the cream walls were during Peter the Great time.

"This is not just the place where he slept. This place where he worked, held meetings, as they say. Peter had never rested at all, as we know from history, a man who worked round the clock. And the first stage of restoration was a few years ago. The Summer Garden is the pearl of Petersburg. In 2014, we started this restoration. And now the Summer Palace opens its doors," stressed the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky. "The complexity of the restoration you



will see in the first hall, it is a very delicate, fragile construction, the same age as the city. This palace was designed as a residence in the summer: 1.5 bricks, thin walls, wooden floors," - said the director of the Russian Museum Vladimir Gusev.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/255165/



On the territory of the palace and park ensemble "Oranienbaum" an opening ceremony took place after the restoration of the palace of Peter III.

"After a large-scale restoration, we open this palace, which is a masterpiece of Russian rococo, Russian architecture. This is the first building of Antonio Rinaldi, which embodies this elegant style," - said at the opening of the director of the GMP Peterhof Elena Kalnitskaya. She added that the museum was not only the customer of the works, but almost completely took over new exposition.

Speaking about the personality of Peter III, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky noted - "Peter III is a very unusual figure. Deposed as a result of the palace coup and put to death at the age of 35, in the memory of the descendants, he remained as he was presented by those people who prevailed in this coup. But in fact, Peter III, was a much more complicated character, as well as the time in which he lived," - said Vladimir Medinsky.

Restoration of the Palace of Peter III was conducted for two years. During this time, the interiors combining the decoration of the 18th and 19th centuries have been renovated, the

painting by Hans Schmidt was restored, it was made specially for the palace in the 1880s in Weimar (Germany) and was stored in the museum's storerooms for more than 60 years.

In the Picture Hall, paintings from trellis hanging are restored - samples of the picturesque collection of Peter III. In the process of restoration works, in the office of Peter Fedorovich, restorers found a panel under the late upholstery of the walls. These findings and the complex restoration of the monument returned to the cultural space of St. Petersburg and the Russian Federation one of the outstanding examples of European park architecture.



The conference "Tambov nobility at the service of the house of Romanovs" was held in the museum of local lore. The conference was dedicated to the 405th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty and the 150th anniversary of Nicholas II. Participants discussed various aspects of the activities of the Tambov nobility, representatives of the military elite, founders and owners of large enterprises, cultural and art figures.

At the same time, in the museum of local lore, an exhibition was shown dedicated to the last Russian Emperor and his visit to Tambov province.

Video - <https://www.vestitambov.ru/new/konferentsiya-tambovskoe-dvoryanstvo-na-sluzhbe-doma-romanovyh-v-kraevedcheskom-muzee/>



On May 27, an exact copy of the Peter the Great's battleship "Poltava" - a replica of a 54-gun linear ship built in 1712 at the shipyard of the St. Petersburg Admiralty - was launched at the shipyard. The new ship will become a museum and an educational center.

"Today, St. Petersburg is 315 years old. The history of our city is inextricably linked with the name of Peter I - and with the sea. Under Peter I, Russia became an empire, and this was largely due to the fleet. It was here, at the shipyards of St. Petersburg, the main naval victories of Russia were laid, and the 54-gun linear ship Poltava became the first ship built at the Admiralty Shipyard. In 300 years, as a sign of respect for this significant event, we decided to restore this legendary ship. It is named in honor of Russia's great victory over Sweden in the Battle of Poltava, which became Russia's main military victory in the 18th century, and the Poltava ship took part in all naval campaigns of the Northern War, and contributed to the return of primordially Russian lands in the Baltic Sea", - said the chairman of the board of Gazprom Alexei Miller.

According to him, the new ship is built from the same materials and the same technologies that were in use under Peter I. He did not specify whether the ship will have modern navigation equipment and amenities. The full displacement of the ship should be about 1100 tons; The body, which was launched with the help of a super-powerful crane (rather than an inclined stack) weighs 600 tons.

"We know that Peter I was a professional in more than a dozen fields, including designer of warships. During the restoration of the ship "Poltava" his drawings were used. Today there is not a single ship in the world restored with such a degree of certainty," Miller added.

Construction began in 2013, the first frame was laid in 2014, and in March of this year, work was completed on the installation of plating. Now the ship is waiting for the completion of the embankment - it is necessary to finish the internal design, load the ballast, and install the entire rigging.

"St. Petersburg and the navy are the two great creations of Emperor Peter Alekseevich Romanov. It is very joyful that St. Petersburg today again bears the name of the sea capital of Russia - here the main command of the Navy is located, the world's best ships and submarines are built here, the world's best shipbuilders are working, the best school of shipbuilders, navigators and naval sailors is created. I would like to thank the masters of the Poltava shipyard," said Governor Georgy Poltavchenko.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/252826/



The State Hermitage presents the story of Nicholas II's office in the Winter Palace. In 1895, after the wedding of the heir Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich - the future Emperor Nicholas II - in the northwestern fresade of the Winter Palace, an "apartment" was arranged for the young couple. The Cabinet has not survived to our time, but the photos made by K.K. Kubesh in 1917, allow to judge the interior solution, made in the fashionable in the late nineteenth century "gothic" spirit. The architect A. F. Krasovsky retained the arched openings connecting the two rooms, replaced the former cylindrical arches with flat ceilings, where the exposed wooden beams caused associations with medieval halls. The office was finished with an oak, the processing of which imitated an old, darkened tree resembling English gothic. In the interior, the waxed shiny wooden surfaces and matt areas of the walls were effectively combined. The laconic beauty of the tree was emphasized by the rich draperies of windows made of silk fabric with complex ornament in the form of bouquets of flowers tied with ribbons. The medieval spirit of the interior with lancet arches and stylized decorative details was

emphasized by two chandeliers made of wrought iron and the ornamental overlays of the doors made in the same technique. In this "medieval" architectural environment, organically decorated elements typical of the modern era: a sofa with a low seat and high back, complete with a shelf, on which are placed vases, statuettes, frames with photos. The Cabinet was included in the suite of the private chambers of the Emperor and was used by him as a private room, where only family members were allowed.

The family of the last Russian Emperor lived in the Winter Palace for less than ten years. In 1904, after the birth of Tsarevich Alexei, Nicholas II and Alexandra Fedorovna with the children moved to the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoe Selo. The Cabinet of Nicholas II became the last residential interior located in the space of the present halls No. 181 and 182. It suffered during the revolutionary events of 1917, then was restored and, together with other rooms of the Imperial half, became part of the exposition of the so-called Historical Rooms, which existed until 1926. Currently, there is a permanent exposition "Artistic furniture of the Russian interior of the 19th century" in the halls. In the former cabinet of Nicholas II there are objects in the "Pompeian" style, which was made in the 1830s-1840s and were located in the Pompeian canteen of the Winter Palace.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AK8fJiK9QY>



A Spiritual and Enlightenment Center named after the Royal Martyrs will be opened in the Intercession Cathedral of Penza. It is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the execution of the Imperial.

On the territory of the church there is already a monument-chapel with an icon of the Royal Martyrs. "In connection with the fact that this beautiful chapel of the Royal Martyrs appeared on the territory of the church, with the blessing of Metropolitan of Penza, Metropolitan Seraphim, a decision was made that we will supplement our Sunday school with a library, a youth department, social service and open a spiritually-educational center of the Holy Passion-Bearers on June 3," - Archpriest John Yavorsky, rector of the Intercession Cathedral, told. It is planned that the work of the new center will be designed for both children and adults.

Video - <http://russia58.tv/news/198127/>



June 6 in Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local History (Museum and Exhibition Center "Poklevsky-Kozell House") the exhibition "The Tragedy of the Family ... The tragedy of the Motherland..." will be opened. About 150 memorial items related to the Romanov family from the collection of the State Museum-Reserve Pavlovsk will be on display. Yekaterinburg residents and visitors will have a rare opportunity for the Urals to get acquainted with the numerous testimonies of the private life of the Imperial family and the Grand Dukes of the Romanovs in the palaces of St. Petersburg, Tsarskoe Selo, Peterhof and Pavlovsk. Their everyday lives and holidays, joy and sorrows, relationships with relatives and friends, occupations and interests - in the reflection of painting, furniture and porcelain from the palace use, home watercolors and amateur photographs of the Grand Dukes and Princess, lovely trinkets from private chambers and priceless gifts to the Emperor, the Empress and their children.

Among them you will see the well-preserved children's shoes of Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna, the house dress-hood of the last Empress, in which she was found only by the closest people, two silver cigarette cases of Nicholas II, one of them he had in the Ipatiev house. For the first time the banner with the Romanov emblem of rare beauty made to the anniversary celebrations of 1913 will be presented. From gifts to these celebrations - there are two unique kokoshniks, created for the daughters of Nicholas II. For the first time in the Urals you will get acquainted with numerous, beautifully executed,



authentic pictures of court photographers. A very touching portrait of the little Tsarevich Alexei ordered by his mother, or his picture in a precious frame, made a long journey with Alexandra Fedorovna from Tsarskoe Selo, first to Tobolsk, then to Ekaterinburg, and now stored in Pavlovsk. The exhibition was prepared jointly by State Museum-Reserve Pavlovsk and the Foundation "Elisavetinsky-Sergievskoe Enlightenment Society.



A programme of events from the organiser the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society UK dedicated the centenary of the martyrdom of the Russian Imperial Family and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna - 6th-8th July 2018, East Cowes, Isle of Wight.



Barton Manor, 1909

THE GRAND DUCHESS ELIZABETH ROMANOV SOCIETY UK,
EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL AND BARTON MANOR
PRESENT
A PROGRAMME OF EVENTS DEDICATED TO THE

Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Russian Imperial Family and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov

6th – 8th of July 2018

EAST COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Unveiling of the ROMANOV MONUMENT in the Jubilee Park, East Cowes.
- Opening of the EXHIBITION "The Cross of the Romanovs" at Barton Manor, near Osborne House.
- CONCERT of Russian Spiritual and Folk Music by the St Elisabeth Convent Choir from Minsk, Belarus.
- TALKS
 - "The Last Imperial Family: Martyrs or Passion-Bearers?" by Metropolitan Kallistos. (Oxford University).
 - "The Imperial Tea Party": book launch by the author, Frances Welch.
 - "The Last Days of the Romanovs: Sydney Gibbs as a British Witness" by Fr Stephen Platt (Oxford parish of St Nicholas).
- Storytelling PERFORMANCE by Anna Conomos: "The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov".
- MARKET: Russian handicrafts, icons and books.

Programme

Friday 6th July

- 17.30 – 19.30** Preview of the Exhibition "THE CROSS OF THE ROMANOV" at Barton Manor, East Cowes. (by special invitation).
The exhibition will present rare archival photographs, films and documents, along with some artefacts and belongings of the Romanov family and Grand Duchess Elizabeth, from private collections. It will feature the Russian Imperial House links to the Royal House of Windsor and the last days of the Tsar's family and of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and their Martyrdom in July 1918.
- 20.00 – 21.30** Concert at the Town Hall, East Cowes. St Elisabeth's Convent Choir (Minsk) and Russian Classical Music.
Tickets will be on sale.

Saturday 7th July

- 8.30 – 10.30** Orthodox Liturgy at St James's Church, East Cowes.
- 10.00 – 17.00** The exhibition is open for everybody.
- 11.30** Unveiling of the Romanov monument (sculptor Elena Bezborodova) in the Jubilee Park, East Cowes. Prayers, speeches, choir.
- 11.00 – 17.00** Russian Market at Barton Manor.
- 12.30 – 13.30** Lunch at Barton Manor (by invitation).
- 14.00 – 16.00** Guided tours and talks:
 - "The Last Imperial Family: Martyrs or Passion-Bearers?" by Metropolitan Kallistos. (Oxford University).
 - "The Imperial Tea Party": book launch by the author, Frances Welch.
 - "The Last Days of the Romanovs: Sydney Gibbs as a British Witness" by Fr Stephen Platt (Oxford parish of St Nicholas).
- 16.00 – 17.00** Showing of the archival footage.
- 18.00** Orthodox Vespers at St Mildred's Royal Church, Whippingham.
- 19.30** Reception at Albert Cottage (by invitation).

Sunday 8th July

- 08.30 – 10.30** Orthodox Liturgy, Carisbrooke Castle, Newport.
Followed by tea and snacks.
- 11.00 – 17.00** The exhibition is open for visitors. Market stalls at Barton Manor.
Activities in parallel with the exhibition:
- 11.00 – 14.00** Visit to Osborne House (English Heritage).
Pilgrimage to St Boniface Church, Bonchurch.
- 13.00 – 14.00** Lunch.
- 14.30 – 15.00** Storytelling performance by Anna Conomos "The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov", at Barton Manor.
- 15.15 – 16.45** Tea Party at Barton Manor (by invitation).
- 17.00** Choir singing beside the monument, prayers and Bishop's Blessing.
- 18.30** Departure by ferry.

Contacts: Maria Harwood 07503213750, nd1523@hotmail.com | David Hill 07818432699, lovehilluk@yahoo.co.uk



On May 30 in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the exhibition "Porcelain and the throne" was opened, timed to two important dates of 2018: the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II and the 100th anniversary of the execution of the last Russian Monarch, his family members and close associates. This is a joint project of the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg and the Imperial Porcelain Factory.

The exhibition tells about the history and state significance of the production of porcelain, the main task of which was to meet the needs of the Russian Imperial Court. It presents the best samples of porcelain made by the craftsmen of the plant. Particularly valuable exhibits of the collection are items that existed at the Imperial Court and came to us in its original form, despite all the twists and turns of the twentieth century. Many exhibits are demonstrated for the first time.



The exhibition "Emperor Nicholas II (1868-1918), dedicated to the 150th anniversary of his birth" will be presented in the halls of ROSPHOTO in St. Petersburg from June 6 to September 9, 2018.

The reign of Nicholas II fell on a difficult period of the Russian Empire and ended tragically - the death of the Great Empire, the Emperor himself and the Imperial Family. In 2018, there is a sad date - 100 years since the shooting of Nicholas II and his family in the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg.

The exposition presents photographic images and newsreel footage related to the life and reign of Nicholas II, from the moment of birth until his death. The exhibition project offered to the audience is unique, as it includes the whole spectrum of photographic heritage of the Romanovs.

The Imperial Family was photographed by the best photographers of the Russian Empire. In addition, the Romanovs were photographed by the best foreign specialists when they were abroad. The exhibition presents family photos of the emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II, performed by outstanding domestic and foreign photographers.

The largest number of pictures left co-owner of the photographic studio "K. E. von Gan and Co., "the famous Russian photographer A.K. Yagelsky, who had the title of "photographer of His Imperial Majesty." He made Nicholas II not only at court, in normal life, but also on trips around the country, during diplomatic visits. The exposition includes numerous photographs of the studio "K.E. Von Gan and Co., "dedicated to the state activities and private life of the last Russian emperor.

The project presents photographic images of the famous master of the reportage shooting K. K. Bulla. In 1904, he received permission to shoot views of the capital and celebrations in the High Presence. From the General Staff of the War Department, Bull had a certificate of permission "to make photographic surveys on maneuvers and exercises of the Guard troops and the St. Petersburg Military District", as well as a special certificate from the Main Naval Staff allowing shooting "during maneuvers, reviews, exercises, descents and bookmarks courts and in general all events relating to marine life. " The exposition includes photos of K. K. Bulla from various jubilee celebrations, and military reviews.

A separate part of the exhibition is photographs taken by Nicholas II and members of his family. The Emperor, the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the Empress Dowager Maria Feodorovna, the children, including the heir, were passionate amateur photographers. Since 1896, when Nicholas II had his first camera, he practically never parted with it. Every year Nicholas personally collected family photos into an album, personally stuck them in and signed them. The photos made by the Emperor and his family environment are sincere and warm; they were not intended for the general public, and therefore imbued with warm human feelings and true love that reigned in the family of the last Russian emperor.

The exposition presents 150 photographs and 30 minutes of newsreels related to the life and public activities of Emperor Nicholas II.



Oh, yes, there was a wedding in May, where HRH Prince Harry married Mrs. Meghan Markle. HRH Prince Harry was wearing the frockcoat uniform of the Blues and Royals, and soon after there were comparisons of him with Emperor Nicholas II, who was photographed in a similar uniform during a visit to Balmoral, UK, September 1896. But, no, it is not the same uniform.

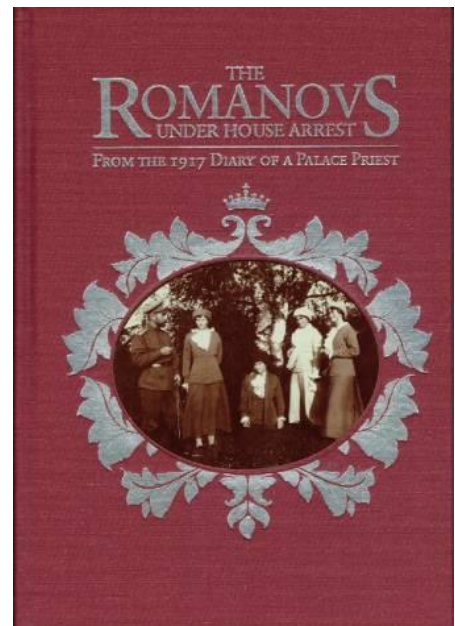
HIM Emperor Nicholas II in the photo wear the uniform of the Royal Scots Grays. The might look similar, but they are not the same.



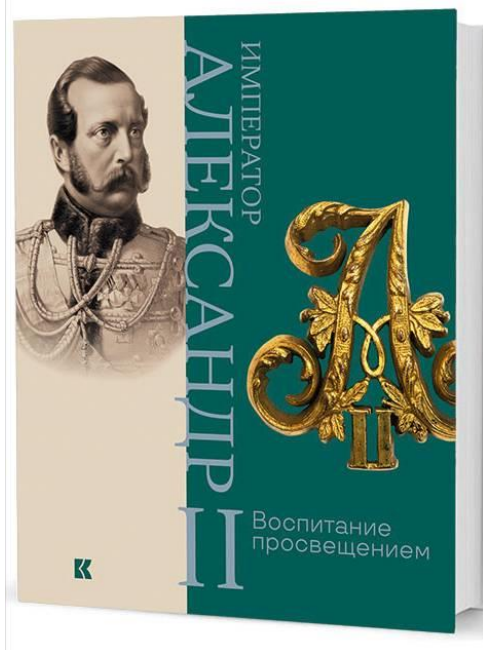


Marilyn Swezey talks with Father Nicholas Chapman about the book "The Romanovs under House Arrest. From the 1917 Diary of a Palace Priest"

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J30fE2wIQRo>



Emperor Alexander II. Educating by enlightenment



The book tells about the formation of the personality of Emperor Alexander II and his activities in the field of development of culture and enlightenment in Russia. The bright examples are the founding of the Moscow Public Museum and Rumyantsev Museum, the Russian Historical Society, the holding of the International Polytechnic Exhibition, the celebration of the millennium of Russian statehood.

The publication presents popular science articles of leading experts (historians, bibliographers, art historians). A number of sources used in the articles introduced into scientific circulation for the first time: rare editions, handwritten materials, graphics from the RSL funds, a number of archival documents from the collection of GARF.

Authors of the articles: A.N. Sidorova, E.A. Emelyanova, O.I. Barkovets, M.P. Lepekhin, V.V. Sedov, A.S. Belyanovskii.

Among the illustrations to the book are works of painting, graphics, photographs, documents, including those published for the first time.

Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole, Moscow. Soft cover. Format: 200x240. Pages: 176. ISBN: 978-5-9950-0906-1

Letters from Grand Dukes Alexander and Sergey Mikhailovich to friends of the Potato Company: 1890-1891



The collection contains letters from the Grand Dukes Alexander and Sergey Mikhailovich to childhood friends with whom they played in Gatchina Park, where they called themselves Potatoes, or "Vanya and Potatoes". This company included the heir and Tsarevich Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich, Grand Duke George Alexandrovich, and others.

Letters are dedicated to their trip to India and Ceylon. Despite the fact that the letters were signed by both Grand Dukes, their author was Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich, as can be seen from the content. He presents his impressions of a trip on the yacht "Tamara" to the countries of the Mediterranean - Italy, Greece, Turkey, then - to Egypt, and further through the Indian Ocean to the shores of India, Batavia and Ceylon. During the trip, they collected rich information about the political and social life of the countries of Southern Europe, Africa and Asia, their nature, the traditions and customs of the peoples

inhabiting them and the relationship of the local population with the colonial authorities. All these observations are set forth in the published letters. The details of their meeting with the heir of the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich, which occurred in Ceylon on February 8, 1891, are disclosed.

Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole, Moscow. Cover: Binding. Format: 125x200. Pages: 256. ISBN: 978-5-9950-0635-0



Великие князья Александр
и Сергей Михайловичи
(слева направо)

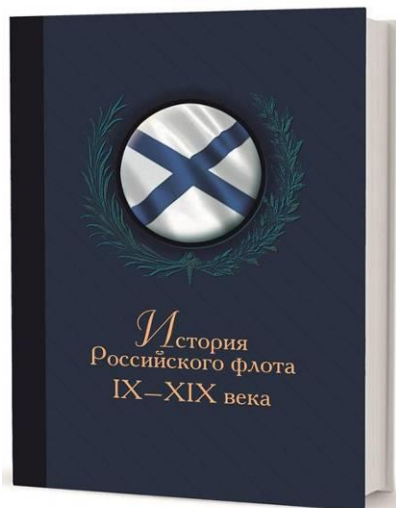
ГА РФ. Ф. 645. Оп. 1. Д. 696. Л. 5



Великие князья Александр
и Сергей Михайловичи,
Г. И. Радде, А. Н. Граббе
(стоят слева направо)

ГА РФ. Ф. 645. Оп. 1. Д. 696. Л. 5 об.

History of the Russian Navy. IX-XIX century



The chronological scope of this work goes beyond the time limits of the history of the regular navy, covering a period of more than 1000 years from the origin of the marine business of the Eastern Slavs until the end of the 19th century. Its most important feature is the study of the relations and relations between politics and the state of all types of maritime activity at all stages of the development of our state from Kievan Rus to the last decades of the Russian Empire, which are either fragmented or insufficiently covered in national military historiography.

Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole, Moscow. Cover type: Binding. Format: 165x235. Pages: 688. ISBN: 978-5-9950-0911-5

"To Die and Rise again: Glorification of Emperor Nicholas II"



The Orthodox Literature Publishing House "Symbolik" published the long-awaited book "To Die and Rise again: Glorification of Emperor Nicholas II", which includes three essays by well-known Orthodox publicists Vladimir Grigoryan and Yevgeny Muravlev.

Put together, these essays give a vivid and comprehensive picture of how, for what reasons and by whose efforts the last Russian Tsar Nicholas Alexandrovich and his family members - Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia were glorified. The authors of the book convincingly show that the glorification of Nicholas II was not a matter of chance or political expediency; it was clearly expressed will of God.

The first part of the book is a vivid historical essay in which the authors reflect, drawing on inexorable facts, about the peculiarities of the Sovereign's personality; about his merits and mistakes as the head of the Russian state; the relationship of the Emperor with one of the main creators of the Russian history of the early XX century, P.A. Stolypin; how timely and faithful were the actions of the Emperor during the February Revolution of 1917 and after; the importance of tsarist power for Russia in the past and the future. Little-known historical material, which involves authors, helps to take a fresh look at the events of the last months of the life of the Emperor and his family.

Here are just a few characteristic excerpts:

... Once in Livadia, the Sovereign was to receive zemstvo figures of the Tauride province. Two of them stressed their disrespect for the moment, giggled, whispered, as was the case with the then representatives of the "cultural society". Suddenly, the Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich came in and just looked at them. About what they said, it does not matter, but when these people left, both of them burst into tears. Quite a typical episode.

... Without those railways and plants that were built under St. Nicholas, without success in the field of weapons, without the glorification of the Monk Seraphim and the preparation of the Local Council of the Russian Church, Russia risked leaving in the twentieth century to nowhere. God did not set before the Emperor the task of preventing the revolution. The Emperor worked for the future. It was the meaning and centre of gravity of the entire policy of Nicholas II, it is how it should be sought.

... In 1915 the Emperor headed the collapsed Russian front. Here is what the military historian A.A. Kersnovsky writes: "History often saw monarchs who became the leaders of victorious armies, for the easy laurels of the end of victory. But history had there never was a crowned man, taking upon himself the cross to lead the army, seemingly hopelessly broken, knowing in advance that here it may not be crowned with laurels, but only with thorns."

The troops found a commander who could be trusted. The situation of the Russian army was restored, and without those emergency measures and spy mania, to which the former commander-in-chief, the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevich, was so inclined. This fully illustrates how the peace and humanity of the Emperor influenced the people.

... While Stolypin was dreaming, which is still a little, and Russia will become the greatest power in the world, only a few, like the Sovereign, saw that this greatness is given at the terrible cost of losing faith, that under the feet of the Russian man the abyss opens. This insight was manifested in the Emperor, even in small things. Four million rubles, since the time of Emperor Alexander II, kept in the London Bank, Nicholas Alexandrovich spent on the maintenance of hospitals and other charitable institutions. "He will soon give everything he has," said the manager of His Majesty's Cabinet, explaining why he wanted to leave his post. Such generosity was primarily a consequence of the kindness, compassion of the Sovereign, but at the same time, foreseeing that neither this child nor that children will need this money. The premonition of the demise of the empire predetermined the character of all the aspirations of the Tsar Martyr. Realizing that the kingdom can not be saved, he prepared us for the battle for the very existence of Russia.

Russia could not at once provide such rights for workers, as Ford: there was not enough qualified personnel, good machine tools. But let's pay attention: the Tsar pushed the factory policy in the right direction.

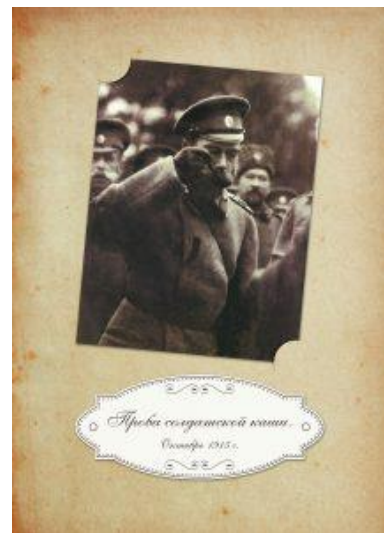
Russian industrialists were very offended by the anointed, that he appreciated them to the same degree as ordinary workers. It came to the point that during the strikes the authorities supported workers, not businessmen, as it was, for example, in Moscow during the time of the Governor-General Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. And it was only partly in the personality of the Governor-General. When in 1896 there was a big strike at the St. Petersburg textile factories, the government also took the side of the workers. Such a policy, like the institute of factory inspectors who represented the state at enterprises, was a means of pressure on those industrialists, who cared little for their workers. Russia was one of the first countries in the world to undertake such a policy.

In 1897, on the personal request of the Sovereign, the length of the working day was limited: it was 2,592 hours a year, while in the USA it was 2,700 hours. The law of 1903 obliged owners of factories to compensate workers for damage for each accident at work, even if the perpetrator was the victim himself.

In case of accidental death, the widow of the worker and his children were given a pension, even if the children were illegal. Such a practice did not exist anywhere in the world. And this is one of the reasons why Russia, in the beginning of the 20th century, came first in the world in terms of industrial production and labor productivity growth, outstripping the United States.

... This is how American President William Howard Taft (1909-1913), American President William Howard Taft (1909-1913), assessed the results of the activities of [Nicholas II] in an interview with the members of the Russian delegation: "Your Emperor has created such perfect working legislation that no democratic state can boast."

... As a Christian the Emperor calmly waited for his fate. His behavior in the months following the revolution shocked even the soldiers guarding the Imperial Family. What does this Monarch do when he has lost his kingdom? He takes a shovel in his hand and prepares the land for future planting. Works with such devotion that one of the sentries can not refrain from shouting: "After all, if to give him a piece of land and he will work on it, then soon again he will earn the whole of Russia for himself".



A very deep remark, in which the very essence of the monarchy and the power of the personality of the Tsar Martyr are grasped. No, the Bolsheviks could not disperse with the Emperor except through the basement of the Ipatiev House.

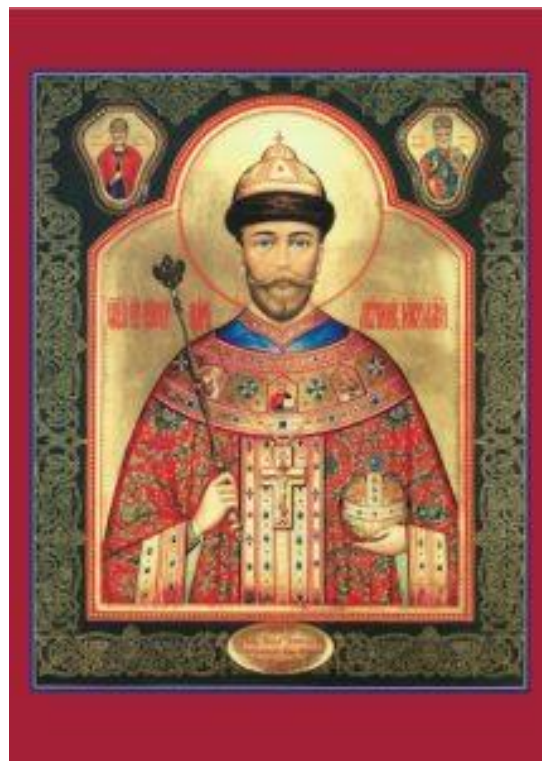
Two other essays of the book are devoted to the events of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s. In "Two Memorials" it is told about the amazing, if you think about, events - the organization and the performance of the requiem for the Tsar's Family in the ... The State Hermitage - the former Winter Palace - in July 1992 and 1993. By some miracle among the people who guarded the Winter Palace, there was a sufficient number of Orthodox. Somehow miraculously in a matter of hours they managed to get permission of the Hermitage director Mikhail Piotrovsky to hold a requiem and a procession. Somehow miraculously managed to find contacts and agree on the arrival of the only priest who was allowed to perform services in the Winter Palace, - the Father Igor Lobanov. The amazing spirit of unity, joyful excitement and sudden happiness from the fact that it was possible to serve and show love for the not famous even then the Emperor - that's what embraces every reader of this essay.

And, finally, the "Guardian". Surprising in strength and persuasiveness, and yet an extremely touching story about Oleg Ivanovich Belchenko, a surgeon of a Moscow hospital, whom the Lord entrusted to become the guardian of the myrrh-tinged icon of the Emperor, made in California "to the Glorification of the Tsar-Martyr in Russia." By God's providence, this icon was destined to become the brightest evidence of the holiness of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich: it visited many churches in Moscow, in St. Petersburg, Kostroma, Kiev, Minsk, on Mount Athos and everywhere there was myrrh on its surface so that the most notorious sceptics became believers.

Here is how Oleg Ivanovich described one of the most striking event:

In Odessa, the image went at the invitation of Metropolitan Agafangel, even before the glorification of the Emperor. Arrived in Ukraine in February 2000, when disputes about the glorification of the Sovereign were in full swing. In Kiev, Bishop Agafangel was vilified as a supporter of "Muscovites", but he did not pay attention to it. Blessed to carry the icon on the churches of the diocese, but the real celebrations took place in Odessa. Vladyka Agafangel, with a large crowd of people, ranked the Monarch to the rank of local saints - and at that moment ... the throne of the Church of the Iberian monastery was crowned with a blazing fire! For the first time not in Jerusalem, not at Easter, but in Little Russia - in Odessa! The fire descended on the antimens with open gates. The whole parish saw this, at first all decided that the fire began in the altar, the priests and deacons ran out shouting: "We are burning!". But it was not a fire - an event truly universal. Soon they figured out what the matter was. The rector later wrote about the miracle, and many learned about it.

The book "To Die and Rise again" is imbued with a great love for the holy Tsar and for the people who served the cause of his glorification. We are sure that it will leave in your soul the warmest and most joyful impressions. And we do not doubt that, having become acquainted with this book, you will learn a lot about the new Tsar-Martyr and his family, which, perhaps, will force you to rethink the information received before.



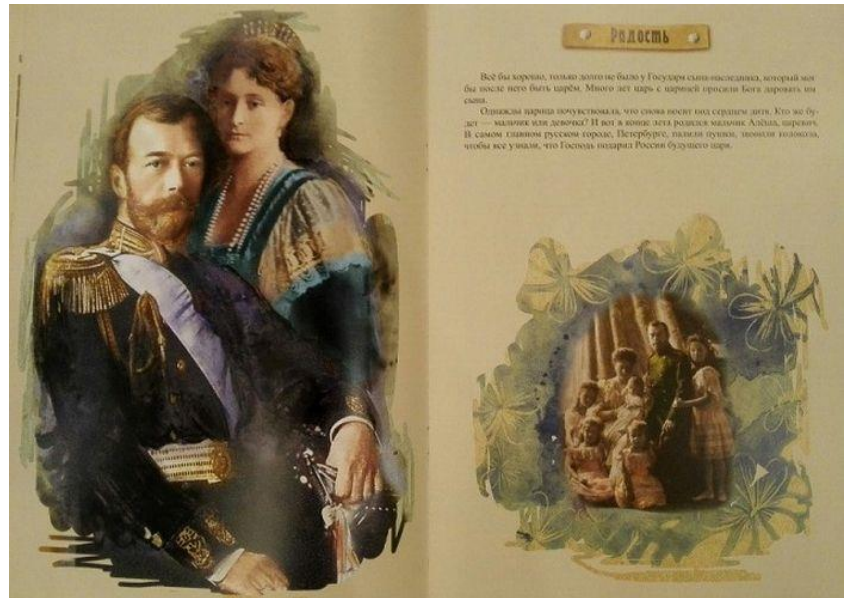
"Once upon a time there lived a Tsar, a Tsarina and their children. Do you think a fairy tale begins? "

Reflections on the Lives of Saints for Preschoolers by Maria Minaeva.
Illustrations from Elena Litvyak's book "White Flower Festival"
/labirint.ru

I really want my children to know and love the saints. After all, the saints are alive, and it is important to perceive them that way. Not formally, not abstractly - as some culturological or historical unit, but as a real living person who is facing God.

Recently we found such a book. Life is a complex and subtle matter associated with a period of Russian history that adults cannot easily comprehend - The Life of Royal Passion-Bearers.

Frankly speaking, I, the ardent opponent of silence, rose-colored glasses and erection of all sorts of illusory walls around the child (no scary and heavy topics, only butterfly, flowers, rabbits, squirrels) ... it was very difficult for me to tell the eldest daughter about the family of the last Russian Emperor. Because even for an adult, the thought of shooting in the basement of the Ipatiev House is stressful. And I just did not have the heart to tell it as it is. I spoke with some general phrases, translated the topic...

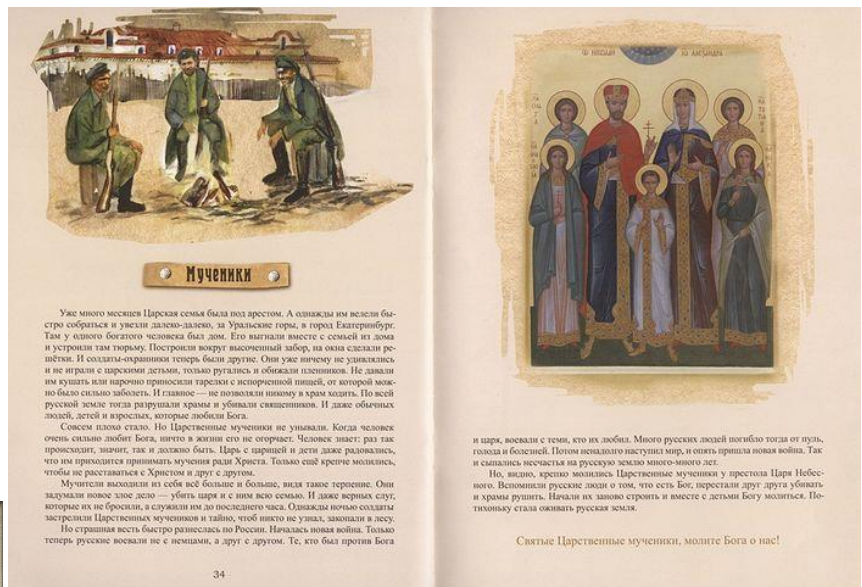
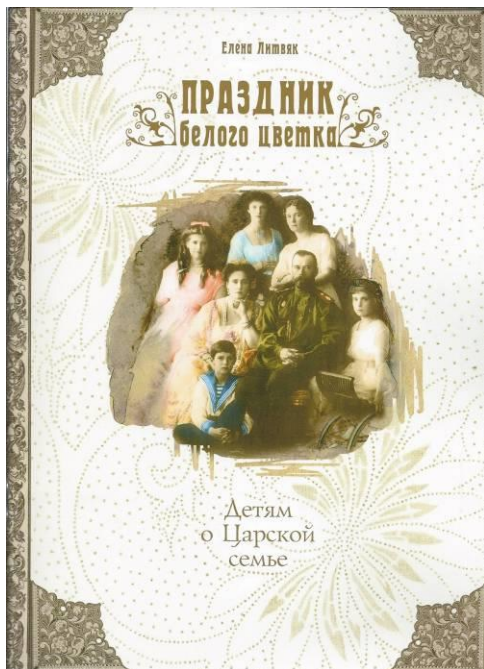


And then we found Elena Litvyak's book "White Flower Festival". Read it in one breath. The daughter did not ask questions. Walked, was silent, comprehended. And in the church I was drawn to the icon of the Passion-Bearers. And then we had a serious and interesting conversation. And, as I understood, the most important thing that struck her was that holiness is inherent in people. Ordinary, lively and weak people. Same as we are.

The book is written very simply, transparently, but not at all primitive. It seems to me, it is designed for children who are not studying yet. The narrative is broken into small chapters with interesting, enticing titles: "Tale from under the bed", "Umbrella swam away", "When I will be Tsar..." Illustrations are good - both photos and light watercolor sketches.

In the beginning my daughter was really intrigued: "Once upon a time there lived a Tsar, a Tsarina and their children. Do you think a fairy tale begins? No, not a fairy tale. Earlier, a long time ago, we had a Tsar in Russia. Not fairy, but real ... "She is not indifferent to the Princesses. And then the Princesses are real, alive, the same girls as she is! They learn, play around, help, love their parents and are loved by them. This is what is called the "break pattern": before the daughter imagined the Princesses only from book illustrations and cartoons.

The book contains many interesting details: the modest clothes of the Princesses, their games, family leisure, relationships with mom, dad, other children. The child compares, compares this with her life. Very sorry for the Tsarevich. It annoys me, listening to how the family was insulted by the guard. It is amazed that in response to insults the Princesses made Christmas presents to their jailers. They makes some conclusions for themselves.



Very delicately and simultaneously it is clear, when Elena Litvyak talks about the war, the revolution, the abdication of Nicholas II. Simply and truthfully, without horror, but without coquetry and silence, it is said about the martyr's death of the Imperial Family.

I want to say about this book: nothing superfluous. In all senses. Nothing is superficial, sugary, and spruce. Nothing traumatic for a child with all the severity of the topic. Very solid and light story. A story that helps a child not only to learn, but to love, to make friendst. Thanks to the author for this!

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



World's largest freshwater pearl once owned by Empress Catherine II is up for auction in the Netherlands

The world's largest known freshwater pearl is going on sale at a public auction in the Netherlands on May 31st. Known as "The Sleeping Lion" due to its unique shape, the rare natural object weighs almost 120 grams (4 ounces) and is over 2.7 inches long.



Along with its size and animal-like appearance, the pearl is renowned for its approximately 300-year history, during which it changed hands between colonial merchants, noble jewelers and European Royals, including Catherine the Great.

The Sleeping Lion will be sold at the Venduehuis auction house in The Hague on May 31, with top estimates valuing it at 540,000 euros (\$632,000).

The pearl is of Chinese origin and is believed to have formed between 1700 and 1760, during the Qing dynasty, according to Venduehuis. Following its discovery, the Sleeping Lion was moved by Dutch merchants to Batavia, present-day Jakarta, before being shipped to Europe -- a move believed to have violated the Chinese Emperor Qianlong's ban on the export of large pearls.

The item was first auctioned in 1778 in Amsterdam following the death of its owner, a wealthy merchant from the Dutch East India Company. Advertised on the auction flyer as a "well-known royal cabinet piece, depicting a sleeping lion, created by nature itself," the pearl was purchased on behalf of the Empress of Russia, Catherine the Great, and moved to St. Petersburg, according to the Venduehuis catalog.

The Sleeping Lion resurfaced in Poland in the mid-1800s and was bought by a jeweler working for Victor Emmanuel II, the first King of a united Italy. It was then held by several other European jewelers, only to settle back in the Netherlands when the Russian Revolution of 1917 prevented it from returning to St. Petersburg. In 1979, the pearl was bought by its current owner, the Amsterdam Pearl Society. "What makes this object even more interesting is that it has traveled a long way since the 18th century," Peter Meefout, director of Venduehuis, said by email.



"The Sleeping Lion Pearl will probably not be on sale for the coming 200 years or so," Meefout said. "It's the last chance for the Dutch public to view this wonder of nature."

Empire, Moscow, Russia, 2 June

Gold award medal for pupils of the Imperial Academy of Arts

Gold; 70,90 gr. The diameter is 51 mm. Signature of the medalier under the edge RP Utkin.
Estimate: 1,000,000 rub.



Gold award medal of the Department of Public Education for reviewers of works on technical education

Medalist V.V. Nikonov. Gold; 37.10 gr. Diameter of 35 mm.

Estimate: 900,000 rub.



Sign "In memory of the Sarov celebrations on July 17-20, 1903"

Faberge Company, Moscow, 1904. Bronze, gilding. Weight 6,48 gr. The size is 45x24 mm. The circulation is 30990 copies.

Emperor Nicholas II liked the work of the people's guard during the canonization of the Monk Seraphim of Sarov, so on August 13, 1903, he ordered the commemorative tokens "... to the people of the peasant government and rural civilians-guards ...".

Estimate: 5000-6000 rub



Badge "The Red Cross's warehouse of Her Majesty Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in St. Petersburg for the soldiers of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905"

Unknown workshop, Russia, 1905 Bronze, gilding. Weight 8.44 grams. The size is 35x23 mm. Estimate: 4000-5000 rub.



The badge-blessing "From the Chief to the Akhtyrsky Hussar"

The firm D. Osipova, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917. Silver, enamel. Weight 9,00 g. The size is 26x32 mm. Stamps on the reverse side: the "84", and the master's name "DO".

On June 27, 1901, the Chief of the 12th Hussar Akhtyrsky Regiment was the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.

Estimate: 15 000-20 000 rub.



Token "In memory of the opening of the monument to Alexander III in St. Petersburg"

Unknown workshop, St. Petersburg ?, 1909. Bronze, gilding, 5.06 gr. Diameter 23 mm.

Estimate: 1500-2000 rub.



Christie's, London, UK, 4 June

Gold medal for service in His Imperial Majesty's own escort
Russia, period of Alexander II, circa 1855.

Circular, one side struck with the profile of Emperor Alexander II, the border inscribed in Russian 'By the Grace of God Alexander II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia', the reverse with the Russian inscription 'For Service in the Personal Convoy of the Emperor Alexander Nikolaevich'.

2 in. (5.1 cm.) high, excluding loop. 2.23 oz. (69.5 gr.)

Provenance: Collection of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich.

Estimate: GBP 100,000 - GBP 150,000 (USD 135,500 - USD 203,250)



Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, 8 June

Tsar Alexander III of Russia with the family Tatischev coat of arms

A Russian stamp seal, carved of Ural smoky quartz, depicting Tsar Alexander III of Russia (1845–1881-1894), seal with the coat of arms of the Russian noble family Tatischev.

Apparently no maker's mark. Second half of the 19th century. H. 14 cm.

Estimate: 10,000–12,000 Dkr.

A Russian wood shrine with Osman cigarettes. Provenance; Grand Duchess Anastasia Michailovna of Russia (1860–1922).

A Russian wood tobacco shrine, decorated in colours with Russian folk scenes and landscapes, containing numerous cigarettes, both loose and in boxes, of the Russian brand Osman, Petrograd. 1914–1917. H. 9 cm. L. 25 cm. D. 16 cm. Russia, early 20th century: Estimate: 8,000–10,000 Dkr.



A Russian silver cigarette case, lid with the monogram of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich of Russia.

A Russian silver and guilloché enamel cigarette case, gilt interior, rounded and rectangular form, the hinged lid applied with the mitre crowned monogram of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich of Russia in red and blue translucent enamel on guilloched ground, complete with vesta compartment and tinder chain. Mikhail Iakovlevich Isakov, St. Petersburg town mark, late 19th century. Weight c. 228 gr. H. 9.8 cm. W. 6.5 cm. Estimate: 25,000–30,000 Dkr.





A Russian Red Cross 14k gold pendant from her Highness Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna

A Russian Red Cross 14k gold pendant, decorated with red translucent enamel on guilloché ground and Russian text in white enamel: "The Tsarskoselski Storage of her Highness Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna". Friedrich Koechli, assayer Jacob Liapunov in St. Petersburg 1896–1903, 56 standard. Engraved (dated) on the reverse 1900. Diam. 2.2 cm. Original leather case lined with velvet and silk marked Frid. Koechli with the Imperial Warrant as purveyor to the Imperial Russian Court enclosed.

Provenance: Wilhelmine ("Minna") Berg married around 1890 the architect and chamberlain Frederik Kjær junior (1856–1930), who lived in St. Petersburg, where they had five children. They had both family ties in Russia, not least Frederik Kjær junior, whose father, Major General and Diplomat Frederik

Frederiksen Kjær senior (1825–1893) lived in St. Petersburg. Petersburg from 1884 and to his death. Frederik Kjær junior worked with the construction of the Russian railways, but in connection with the Russian Revolution, his family moved home to Denmark while he stayed in Russia for some years. Thence Wilhelmine Kjær's two great-grandchildren until today.

Estimate: 10,000–12,000 Dkr.



The "Livadia Palace Service" - eight Russian porcelain plates

Three deep and five flat Russian porcelain dishes, rim decorated with geometric pattern and leaf vine in colours and gold on white ground. Marked in underglaze green Cyrillic *H* for Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (1894–1917) and dated respectively three à 1909, three à 1912 and two à 1913. Diam. three à 24.5 cm and five à 24 cm.

It is said that the porcelain design was inspired by Tsaritsa Alexandra Feodorovna (1872–1918) with her favorite colour, mauve.

Provenance: Seller's father, who was the ambassador of



Uruguay in Moscow during the 1970s, where he acquired several Russian antiques.
Estimate: 15,000–20,000 Dkr.



A Russian silver-gilt Easter egg pendant with the monogram of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna 1915.

A Russian silver-gilt Easter egg pendant, engraved with the mitre crowned monogram of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and dated 1915. Apparently no maker's mark, Krasnoe Selo 1908–1917, 84 standard. H. (excl. loop) 1.5 cm.
Estimate: 6,000–8,000 Dkr.



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - "Ballerup. Haven paa Knudsminde i Sept. 1944"

The garden at Knudsminde in Ballerup
September 1944. Sign. Olga. Oil on
canvass. 51x62 cm.

On the reserve an exhibition label.

Estimate: 15,000–20,000 Dkr.



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - "A spring in the woods at Ballerup with small flowers"

Signed Olga. Oil on cardboard. 46x38.5 cm.

Estimate: 8,000–10,000 Dkr.



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - "Coloursful flowers in a window sill at Knudsminde Farm, Denmark"

Signed Olga. Oil on cardboard. 50x61 cm.

Estimate: 10,000–12,000 Dkr.



Sotheby's, London, UK, June 5

A Wedding Gift to Their Imperial Majesties

A Rare and Important Imperial Silver-Gilt and Enamel Triptych Icon of the Feodorovskaya Mother of God, Savelev Brothers, Kostroma, 1894.

Rectangular with onion dome upper section, the front doors of two panels both centred with a raised polychrome cloisonné enamel rosette. The doors opening to reveal the central icon of the Feodorovskaya Mother of God, the faces, hands and legs of the Mother and Child enamelled en plein, their chased robes, halos and crowns painted with vari-coloured enamels to simulate jewels, the scroll-chased border applied at the corners with medallions of four Apostles. The central upper section applied with an icon of the Mandylion, Christ's face enamelled en plein. The interior of the left door enamelled with an image of Saint Alexandra, the right with Saint Nicholas.



The reverse with the engraved and part-enamelled civic arms of Kostroma, within a ribbon-tied oak wreath below an Imperial crown, above a raised inscription in Russian: 'To His Imperial Highness the faithful Emperor Nikolai Alexandrovich and to his wife the faithful Empress Alexandra Feodorovna/ A devout offering from the Kostroma state/ The year 1894, November 14', struck Br. Savelev of Kostroma in Cyrillic beneath the firm's exhibition medals, 84 standard, in a fitted plush-lined wood case, the reverse with partial paper label for Hammer Galleries, New York, and the remains of another label, presumably an exhibition label, dated 31, 1937. Height 33.7cm, 13 1/4 in.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUvZuGn6UTQ>

The wedding of the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich and Princess Alix of Hesse and by Rhine was originally planned for April 1895, following their engagement at Coburg in April 1894, and was to include a week of public celebrations in St Petersburg, with all of the pomp attaching to a State occasion. The death of Emperor Alexander III at Livadia on 20 October (O.S.) 1894 meant a change in both the date and the nature of the ceremony. The new Emperor Nicholas II insisted on being married as soon as possible. His first wish was to marry at Livadia before his father's funeral, 'while Papa is still under this roof'. His mother was amenable to the idea, but his influential uncles insisted that the wedding of an Emperor was too important an event for the nation and that it must happen in St Petersburg; their view prevailed.

Nicholas and Alexandra were married on 14 November (O.S.), a week after Alexander III's funeral, the date chosen because it was the Dowager Empress' birthday, which meant that Court mourning could be relaxed. Maria Feodorovna helped dress Alexandra for the ceremony, and together they drove to the Winter Palace and proceeded to the chapel, where the Emperor waited in his Hussar uniform. They each held a lighted candle as they became husband and wife, the precise moment depicted in Tuxen's well-known painting.

Alix wrote to her sister 'One day in deepest mourning lamenting a beloved one, the next in smartest clothes being married. There cannot be a greater contrast, but it drew us more together, if possible.... Such was my entry into Russia'.

Wedding gifts were sent from throughout the Empire and abroad, many from municipal governments. The more bespoke and elaborate of these would have been put into production as soon as the engagement was announced. Moving the wedding forward by five months necessitated a scramble for craftsmen in manufacturing centres across Russia to finish their work. It is unknown when the present lot reached St Petersburg, but it would not have been completed in time for the wedding. Officials in Kostroma may have felt a special pressure to give an incredible gift, as the city considered itself the birthplace of the Romanov dynasty. Michael Romanov was there when he was elected Tsar in 1613.

"My most significant find ever" – Charles Hanson on discovery of two rare Fabergé flowers

22 May. Antiquetrade gazette. - Auctioneer Charles Hanson has described the discovery of two rare Fabergé flowers during a routine valuation morning as his "most significant find ever".

"It was totally unexpected – as the best finds always are," Hanson told ATG. "A client came along to our office in East Molesey carrying a cardboard box. Inside, wrapped in an old tea towel, was not one, but two, Fabergé flowers."

The precious metal and hardstone botanical studies, made c.1907-10, are expected to fetch up to £250,000 each when offered on June 11 at Hansons' London saleroom, the Normansfield Theatre in Teddington where auctions were launched earlier this year by the Derbyshire firm.

Only about 80 Fabergé botanical studies are known. This duo, the property of a distinguished lady, depict a barberry bush with purpurine berries and jade leaves in a carved rock crystal vase, and a morning glory blossom of enamel gold and diamond flowers in a jade jardinière with aventurine quartz stand.



Hanson, a regular face on TV programmes including Bargain Hunt and Antiques Road Trip, paid tribute to the craftsmanship inherent in the 6in (15cm) high flowers.

"These are 'objects de fantaisie', simply made for guests to admire," he said.

According to Franz Birbaum, Fabergé's senior designer from 1896, this genre was inspired by Chinese art and came to Peter Carl Fabergé's attention when the firm were called upon to repair a bunch of chrysanthemums from the palace of the Chinese Emperor.

"The Fabergé barberry bush with purpurine berries and jade leaves demonstrates breathtaking luxury," said Hanson. "It's chased and engraved gold stem sits within a carved rock crystal vase appearing to be half full of water. It is extraordinarily delicate with rich, soft red berries so real they could drop any time on ripening .

"The other Fabergé flower takes the form of a highly naturalistic morning glory blossom on a jade jardinière and aventurine quartz stand. The gold flowers, enamelled white with shades of pale pink and lilac are inset with 'dew drops' of diamonds. A bud is bursting to open and flower. The leaves are carved Siberian jade nephrite."